

Essential

MARBELLA | MÁLAGA | SPAIN

N° 304 — MARCH 2025



**SPECTACULAR
SINGAPORE**

**THE NEW
FERRARI F80**

**RACHEL ZEGLER
SNOW WHITE**

**ASHIANA SPA
BOHO CLUB**

**UNDERWATER
SCULPTURES**

**THE SKY
MARBELLA**

**THE MAYOR
OF BENAHAVIS**



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Cascada de Camoján: A masterpiece of refined elegance by the architect Maurice Sainz graces this prestigious community. This residence set within immaculate gardens, commands breathtaking views and boasts twin swimming pools, opulent spa facilities, and five beautifully appointed suites. Contemporary sophistication meets innovation in this jewel on the Golden Mile. 5 beds, 8 baths, built area approx. 1,435 m², plot approx. 2,904 m². Price: €14,950,000, E&V ID: W-02MLLF



El Rosario: Stunning high-end villa with stylish interior design and sea views in a sought-after location. 3 beds, 2 baths, built area approx. 254 m², plot approx. 1,250 m². Price €2,900,000, E&V ID: W-02YHHO



Nueva Andalucía · Frontline Golf: Exquisite mansion of refined design gracing a privileged corner plot with breathtaking golf views. 5 beds, 5 baths, built area approx. 1,023 m², plot approx. 2,033 m². Price: €7,500,000, E&V ID W-02YPLV



La Mairena: Beautiful modern villa sat on a large plot offering ample living areas and unrivalled views. 6 beds, 6 baths, built approx. 739 m², plot approx. 3,037 m². Price €3,950,000, E&V ID W-02YEWD



Palo Alto: High-end penthouse with stunning views and private pool within a gated community with 5-star amenities. 3 beds, 3 baths, living area approx. 149 m², terraces approx. 150 m². Price €1,800,000, E&V ID W-02YMGF



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Cascada de Camoján: Acclaimed architect Miguel Tobal has designed a masterwork of sophistication. Allure stands as a testament to uncompromising attention to detail, where every element has been meticulously considered. Presents top luxury living in all senses, combining prime location, spectacular views, magnificent architecture, bespoke interior design, space, privacy, quality and top resort amenities. 6 beds, 8 baths, built area approx. 1,347 m², plot approx. 2,000 m². Price: €16,600,000, E&V ID: W-02P6JY



Los Monteros: Fantastic modern villa in Santa Clara Golf with sea views within an exclusive gated community. 4 beds, 3 baths, built area approx. 428 m², plot approx. 785 m². Price: €2,390,000, E&V ID: W-02YAH6



Guadalmina: Remarkable villa set on an impressively large plot with private tennis court, gym, games room and heated pool. 6 beds, 6 baths, built area approx. 544 m², plot approx. 6,150 m². Price €3,995,000, E&V ID W-02Y5R7



Puerto Banús · Frontline Beach: Exceptional beachfront duplex penthouse with private pool and unobstructed sea views. 3 beds, 3 baths, interior area approx. 319 m², terrace approx. 238 m². Price: €6,500,000, E&V ID W-02XI0T



Guadalmina · Beachside: Timeless Andalusian-style villa with guest wing set on an impressive plot. 7 beds, 7 baths, built approx. 650 m², plot approx. 4,000 m². Price €6,700,000, E&V ID W-02WT6U



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publisher



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PUBLISHER

When Was The Last Time You **DID SOMETHING FOR** **THE FIRST TIME?**

Spring is a time of rebirth and new beginnings.

To help you to be inspired to live your life more fruitfully, we have confectioned an issue full of great ideas for an enhanced lifestyle.

Experience life in Singapore, that high rise city of style and efficiency. Spend some days being pampered at The Peninsula in Istanbul, and marvel at the stunning underwater sculptures of Jason deCaires Taylor.

2025 marks the 250th anniversary of the birth of Jane Austen - find out about

the multitude of celebrations that will be marking this landmark throughout the year.

Become acquainted with Rachel Zegler and meet the Mayor of Benahavís, José Antonio Mena.

Take time out to replenish yourself at the serene Ashiana Spa at Boho Club, see how The Sky Marbella stands out above all the rest, and dare to floor-it in the powerful new Ferrari F80.

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“SPRING IS
NATURE’S WAY
OF SAYING,
‘LET’S PARTY!’”
Robin Williams



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THE SKY

Marbella

On top of La Quinta in Benahavis, on the southern edge of El Madronal, The Sky Marbella was designed according to the highest level of luxury living trends, as an endless dialogue between home, the sky and the sea.

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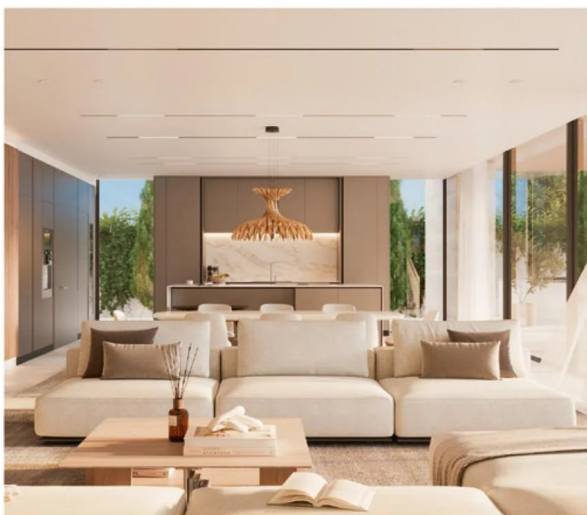
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ABOVE EVERYTHING ELSE



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Jet off to spectacular high-rise Singapore. Pamper yourself at The Peninsula on the bank of the Bosphorus in Istanbul. Find out what celebrations are planned for the 250th anniversary of the birth of Jane Austen. Marvel at Jason deCaires Taylor's underwater sculptures and the sheer unbridled power of the new Ferrari F80.

spotlight

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SERENE & SPECTACULAR SINGAPORE

WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHY **SUBHASISH CHAKRABORTY AND SHUTTERSTOCK.COM**

National Gallery Singapore



View of the skyline of Singapore with the Marina Bay Sands and the financial district.



HISTORY & CULTURE

Singapore, a vibrant city-state and island country in Southeast Asia, has a rich tapestry of history and culture that dates back centuries. Initially a humble fishing village inhabited by indigenous Malays and known by its ancient name, Temasek,

Singapore's modern narrative began in 1819. This was when Sir Stamford Raffles established it as a British trading post. Its strategic location at the crossroads of major maritime routes quickly transformed it into a significant international trading hub.

Singapore is the smallest

country by surface area in Southeast Asia. It is one of the world's most expensive cities to live in, with the highest global GDP rankings (PPP adjusted). The Singapore skyline itself is awe-inspiring, with countless tall skyscraper buildings that give it its worldwide recognition. ›



Views from a high-rise terrace

The cultural diversity of the island is largely due to successive waves of immigration from various parts of Asia, including China, India, and the Malay Archipelago. These communities brought their traditions, languages, and cuisines, creating a multicultural society that is both complex and harmonious. Today, this blend is evident in Singapore's four official languages: English, Malay, Mandarin, and Tamil, with English serving as the lingua franca that bridges the diverse

ethnic groups.

Singapore's culture is also reflected in its festivals and food. The country celebrates Chinese New Year, Deepavali, Hari Raya Puasa, and Christmas with great fervour, showcasing its multicultural makeup. Food, in particular, is a cornerstone of its cultural identity, with hawker centres and food courts offering a myriad of dishes like laksa, chicken rice, and satay, representing various ethnic influences.

Post-independence in 1965,

under the leadership of its founding father, Lee Kuan Yew, Singapore rapidly developed from a low-income country to a high-income economy, emphasising education, healthcare, and housing. This transformation is a critical part of its cultural narrative today, reflecting a nation that values social progress, innovation, and multicultural harmony. The blend of historical legacy with modernity and a continual push towards innovation makes Singapore's culture unique and dynamic. ›

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A NATION OF FIRSTS

As a highly developed nation, Singapore has many 'firsts' to its credit – the fastest Internet connectivity, lowest corruption levels, and the lowest infant mortality. Yet, the fact of the matter is that this nation has one of the highest population densities in the world! However, what is worth emulating from

the Singaporean model is its sense of ingenuity when it comes to making full use of the limited land resources available, with provisions for exclusive green spaces and dedicated urban recreational centres.

This island nation/city state may be small in size (720 Km²) but make no mistake, it does pack a punch, vis-à-vis its

vantage location, with one of the world's largest seaports and a bustling aviation hub with more than 100 airlines operating out of Changi International Airport. Singapore Airlines, the flag carrier of this island nation is a 5-Star airline and a Star Alliance member, which many reckon is also the world's best carrier.

Masjid Sultan Mosque in Kampong Glam is a national monument in Singapore with a long history dating back to 1824.





Merlion Fountain
at Merlion Park.

TIME FOR TEA

Despite being small, Singapore is a much-admired country for business and commerce. In terms of ease of doing business and favourable indicators like political stability and infrastructure availability, the island nation is a perennial favourite with business barons and tech companies. The Government of Singapore through its policy of levying low corporate taxes and granting tax incentives has been successful in luring big ticket investments into the island nation.

In their eagerness to explore Singapore's iconic landmarks like Marina Bay Sands, Pinnacle at Duxton, Raffles Hotel, Singapore Flyer, Singapore Art Museum and the neighbourhoods like Little India, China Town, Kampong Glam, and Tiong Bahru, visitors often overlook the island nation's obsession with Tea.

Yes, Singaporeans are connoisseurs of tea. Nothing cheers them up more than a nice cuppa. This cosy tea culture is influenced by Singapore's migrant Chinese and Indian communities. The fact that it was once a British colony has resulted in the concept of indulging in 'Afternoon tea' remaining popular with Singaporeans to date. Traditional tea houses are popularly referred to as Kopitiams, which are usually buzzing with activity. >

Buddha Tooth
Relic Temple
and Museum



As someone who was born and raised in Assam – one of the world's most densely cultivated tea regions, where some of the world's best tea is produced – I can vouch that an average Singaporean's appreciation for fine tea leaves is remarkable.

Lately, the concept of Bubble Tea Shops has gained tremendous popularity. The manner in which varieties of Black and Oolong tea are assembled and blended, giving the brew a unique flavour, is

worth indulging in.

Apart from the traditional Kopitiam, Singapore has numerous high-end tea salons. Luxury hotels like Goodwood Park, Ritz-Carlton, and Shangri-la offer incredible choices.

One of Singapore's iconic landmark hotels, Raffles is renowned the world over for its Classic Afternoon Tea in the Grand Lobby, where tea connoisseurs indulge in high quality tea in a truly extraordinary Victorian setting. A good idea is to purchase signature Raffles

tea boxes as souvenirs, and they have many varieties – Raffles Assam Loose Tea, Nuwara Eliya Loose Tea, Green Tea, all beautifully packaged in tin boxes!

As a keen tea aficionado, I for one would highly recommend a visit to Hotel Conrad's Tea Lounge located at 2 Temasek Boulevard, where the focus is on recreating the good old British sophistication with Asian exuberance. From seasonal delicacies to a wide variety of sandwiches to go with, the Conrad Tea Lounge makes your Singapore inspired afternoon high tea experience truly rewarding. ›



Residences

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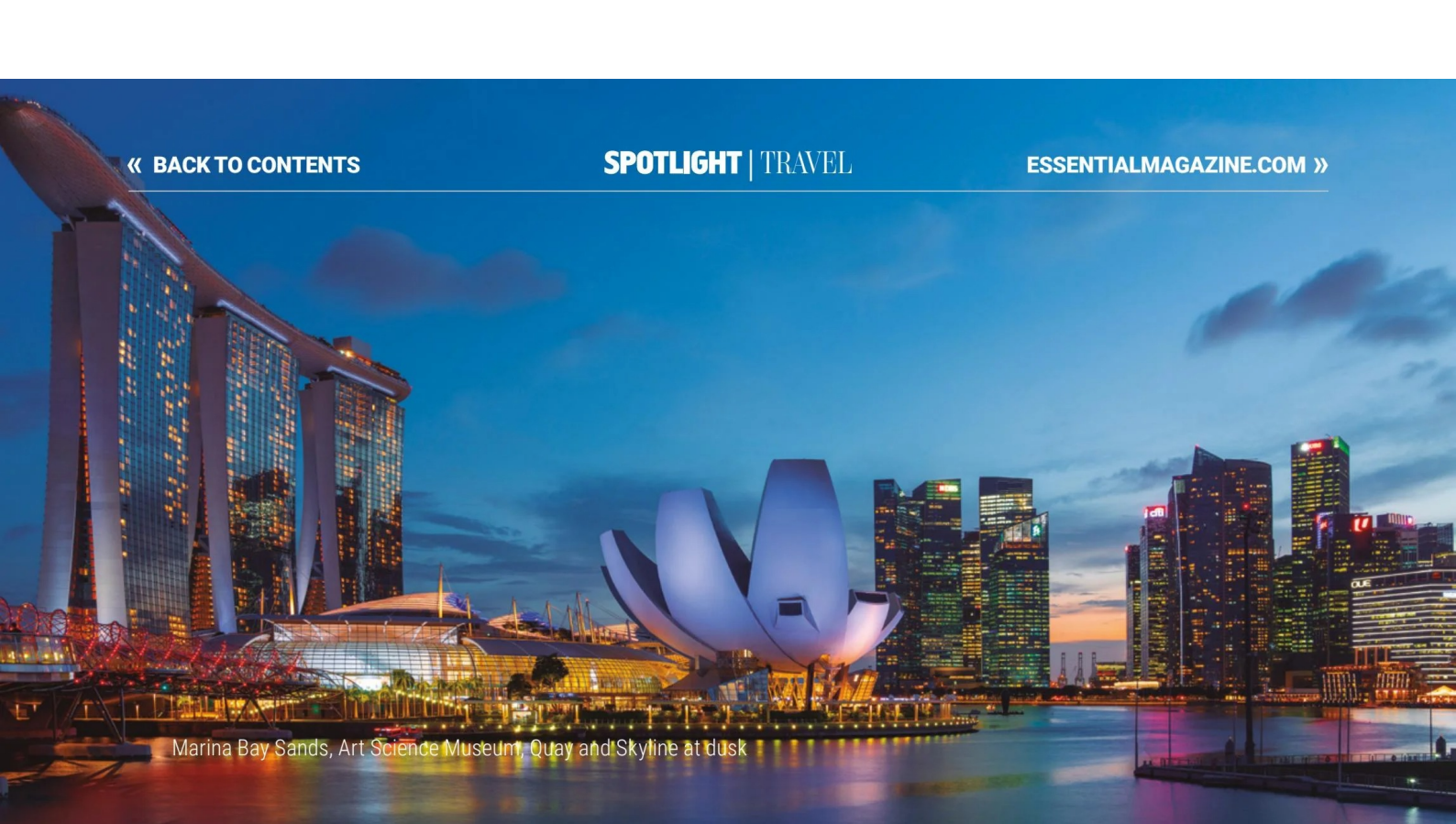
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Marina Bay Sands, Art Science Museum, Quay and Skyline at dusk

EXPLORING THE NEIGHBOURHOODS

First time visitors should ideally devote four or five days to exploring the varied charms of Singapore and neighbourhoods like China Town, Little India, Kampong Glam, and Tiong Bahru, all of which are

guaranteed to instil lifelong memories.

To ensure a hassle-free and immersive tourism experience, visitors to Singapore are advised to make use of the services of a knowledgeable guide. The STB (Singapore Tourism Board) offers the services of guides on demand.

» CIVIC DISTRICT

This used to be the colonial headquarters of British administered Singapore and is ubiquitous by its quintessential art galleries and museums. The National Gallery showcases the world's largest collection of Southeast Asian art. Other landmarks worth visiting are the Victoria Concert Hall, Asian Civilisations Museum, and Peranakan Museum.

» LITTLE INDIA

As its name suggests, Little

India is all things Indian and is easily one of the most vibrant neighbourhoods of Singapore where the spirit of India comes alive in a riot of colours, especially during the festive seasons. What a joy it is to be here during Diwali – the festival of Lights!

Try to embark on a Walking Tour of Little India conducted by Culture Curious, www.culturecurious.biz/singapore The groups are small in size and the guides are extremely knowledgeable as they take visitors on a

journey of discovery through the Tan Teng Niah House, the Sri Veeramakaliamman, Serangoon Road and beyond. The best part of the tour is savouring Indian street food.

» CHINA TOWN

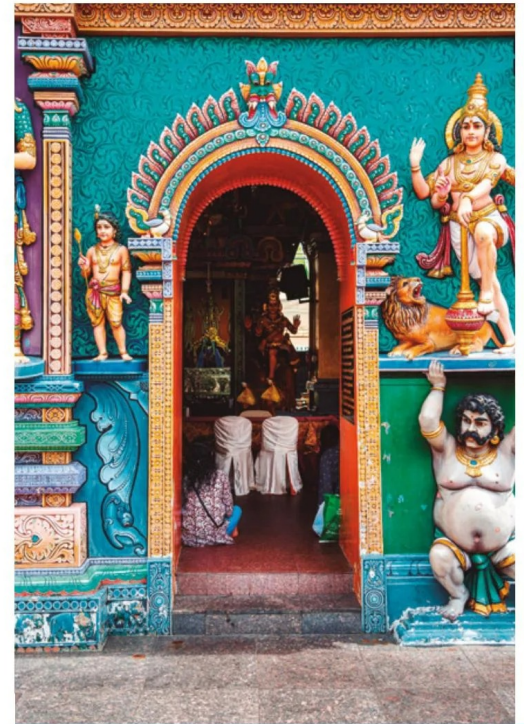
The Chinese were the first of the migrant settlers in Singapore and they have contributed immensely both culturally and commercially towards making Singapore one of the world's best city states.

As you amble leisurely through the bustling alleyways of China Town, the sight of Thian Hock Keng, which is Singapore's oldest Chinese temple, compels you to stop by and admire.

There is also the Buddha Tooth Relic Temple & Museum in China Town. This temple is an architectural marvel and one of the finest examples of Buddhist Mandala and Tang Dynasty architecture. Here, Lord Buddha's left canine tooth is preserved in a golden stupa.

For authentic Chinese culinary specialities, drop into Bee Cheng Hiang or Kele. The latter serves the best Pineapple Tarts in the whole of Singapore. ›

Buddha Tooth Relic
Temple and Museum,
China town



Little India District





Waterfall at Shopping mall Jewel in Changi Airport

» MARINA BAY

This is Singapore's signature glitz and glamour zone. The iconic Merlion Park is easily one of Singapore's most preferred selfie zones. Its iconic statue, which is half fish and half lion is symbolic of Singapore's past as a fishing village with the head of the lion representing the resurgent Singapore of today.

The Esplanade area stands out for its distinct architecture and is the Party Zone of Singapore, replete with Michelin-starred restaurants and high end bars.

The Singapore Flyer (165 meters) is

Asia's largest observation wheel and offers breathtaking views of the city scape.

» SENTOSA

This is sunny Singapore at its best: Harry Potter Magic, Under Water Wonders, Aqua Park, Sky Park Bungee Jumping, Rainforest by Night... making Sentosa a thrilling hotspot. Here you will find the LEGO certified store and the very best of Hershey's chocolate collections: Kisses, Twizzlers, Reese's and what have you... >



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HOTELS THAT RESONATE WITH LUXURY

The hospitality landscape of Singapore is literally a treasure trove of all that is gracious, elegant, and charming. They range from neo-classical residences to modern day skyscraper-type hotels. With living walls, there's much to admire in the luxury accommodation stakes. These hotels are destinations in themselves and some of them

have a rich heritage, which is worth indulging in.

A list of Singapore's most famous hotels to stay at.

» RAFFLES

Located strategically at No. 1 Beach Road and renowned for its old-world charm and period architecture. This is an iconic hotel, which dates back to 1887.

| WWW.RAFFLES.COM/SINGAPORE

» THE OUTPOST HOTEL SENTOSA

Located on a vantage hilltop offering mesmerising views of the Singapore Strait. The award-winning Spa is one of the best in Singapore and it offers a bewildering array of cuisines to savour.

| WWW.THEOUTPOSTHOTEL.COM.SG



The Outpost Hotel Sentosa

» **OASIA**

Located at 190 Orchard Boulevard. A Four Seasons Group Hotel, bang in the city centre. An urban oasis with regally designed suites and an eclectic mix of gastronomic delights to indulge in.

WWW.FOURSEASONS.COM/SINGAPORE

» **PARK ROYAL ON PICKERING**

Located at 3 Upper Pickering Street. A family-friendly hotel with outdoor swimming pool and high-end amenities.

WWW.PANPACIFIC.COM

» **THE FULLERTON**

The Fullerton Hotel Singapore was launched in 2001 and The Fullerton Bay Hotel Singapore opened in 2010. The hotels are centrally located in the heart of Singapore's Civic District.

WWW.FULLERTONHOTELS.COM

» **ST REGIS**

Located at 29 Tanglin Road in downtown Singapore. This outstanding hotel has Asia's finest private art collection. The hotels 299 rooms and suites ooze with luxurious splendour – crystal chandeliers, original art pieces, and carefully designed fabrics.

WWW.MARRIOTT.COM



Oasia Hotel

THE PENINSULA ISTANBUL

LUXURY LIVING IN ‘THE CITY ON SEVEN HILLS’

WORDS **MARISA CUTILLAS** PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF **THE PENINSULA ISTANBUL**





The beautiful city of Istanbul, known for so many centuries as Constantinople, welcomes over 17 million tourists in a given year owing to its rich historical heritage, cultural diversity, and strategic location between the continents of Europe and Asia. It is home to breathtaking landmarks such as the Hagia Sophia, Blue Mosque, and Topkapi Palace, which highlight its Byzantine and Ottoman history. It is also graced with natural beauty, thanks in no small part to The Bosphorus Strait, which runs through the city and offers scenic views and memorable cruise experiences. Of course, Istanbul offers so much more than sightseeing. It is also famed for its excellent shopping opportunities in markets such as the Grand Bazaar, one of the world's largest and oldest covered markets, extending over 61 streets and featuring over 4,000 shops. This city additionally boasts a selection of world-class hotels, among which the Peninsula Istanbul stands out. ›





LOCATION

When booking a hotel, one of the most important considerations is location, and the Peninsula Istanbul hits the bullseye in this respect. It is located in the historic Karaköy district and is part of Galataport – a new waterfront revitalisation project that features a state-of-the-art cruise terminal, approximately 250 shops and restaurants,

the Istanbul Modern Art Museum, and other cultural and entertainment facilities. It is also conveniently close to many of Istanbul's most iconic landmarks, including Galata Tower, Galata Bridge, and the famous Sultanahmet District, where sites like the Hagia Sophia Grande Mosque, The Blue Mosque, and Topkapi Palace are located. ›



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ACCOMMODATIONS

The Hotel comprises a small compound of buildings, three of which are protected historical landmarks. The central building contains The Lobby, a glass-fronted heritage structure built in the 1940s which served as Turkey's first modern cruise terminal. There are 177 accommodations to choose from, including 138 guest rooms and 39 lavish suites, most of which offer sweeping views over the Bosphorus and the quaint rooftops of Istanbul's beloved Old Town. If you're after a premium

stay, we recommend The Art Suite, furnished with exquisite Turkish design elements and original works of art. Another good choice is The Rooftop Garden Suite, which has a spacious private terrace with panoramic views. The most opulent choice, of course, would have to be The Peninsula Suite, which is almost 510m² in size and includes a private hammam, gym, screening room, adjoining bedroom, and multiple balconies. It has a private rooftop pool and an adjacent dining and lounge area.

TASTY BITES

The Peninsula Istanbul has three dining establishments. The Lobby offers Afternoon Tea and an all-day menu of international dishes. It also has a palatial outdoor terrace overlooking the Bosphorus and promenade. GALLADA, meanwhile, serves exquisite Turk-Asian cuisine from Michelin-starred Chef Fatih Tutak. The Topside bar is on the top floor, boasting a stunning nautical theme. Finally, guests can enjoy al fresco mezze, tapas, and light fare in private poolside cabanas in the Abelia Pool area.



GETTING FIT

The Peninsula Spa & Wellness Centre, along with its adjacent swimming and fitness centre, offer guests a haven of health and well-being. It includes a 25-metre indoor pool with submerged speakers playing underwater music, the outdoor Abelia Pool, a 24-hour, state-of-the-art Spa and Fitness centre, saunas, two hammams, steam rooms, and relaxation rooms, and eight private treatment rooms (two of which are for couples). Guests can choose from an impressive menu that includes therapeutic massage, aromatherapy, and many more face and body treatments.

MORE TEMPTATIONS

The Peninsula Istanbul offers an array of distinctive services, including 24-hour concierge, in-room dining, valet parking, excursions, classes, and access to cultural events via The Peninsula Academy. It is also pet-friendly, which is great news for those who wouldn't dream of leaving home without their furry best friend. Finally, it has three event spaces, including two spacious meeting rooms. The grand ballroom, which connects to a private outdoor terrace via retractable doors, accommodates up to 1,550 guests.

| WWW.PENINSULA.COM

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She never lived to see her name on a book cover. But Jane Austen is set for maximum exposure in her 250th birthday year at a party streamed around the world from her native Hampshire. Bonnet-trimming contests, costume balls, and reruns of Colin Firth's hot Mr Darcy in that Wet Shirt Scene will celebrate the 18th century novelist whose biting Regency rom coms still fly off the bookshelves today.

AN AUSTENTATIOUS YEAR

The only known portrait of Jane, painted by her sister Cassandra in 1810

It is a truth universally acknowledged that Jane Austen's death did her career nothing but good.

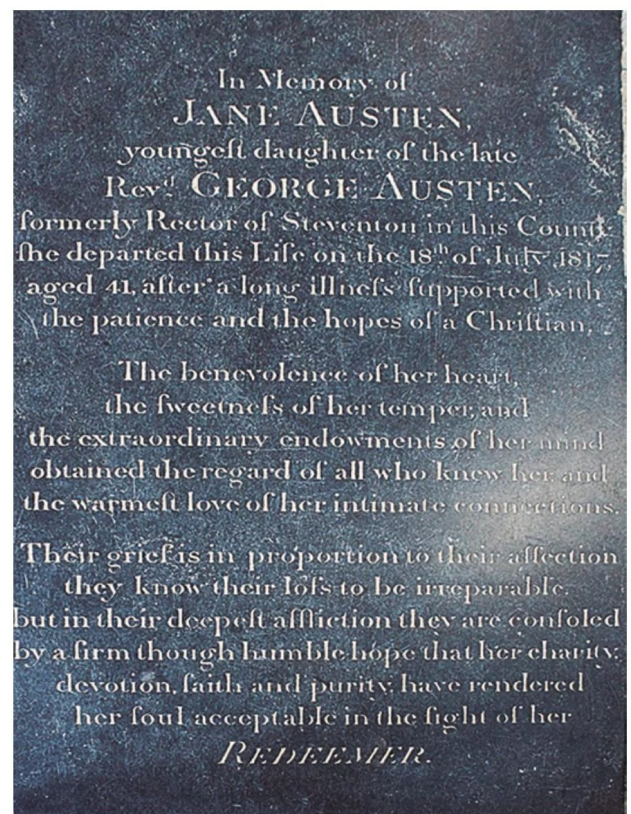
ALIVE, she earned £575 (£45,000 today) from four novels she was forced to publish anonymously because working for money in Regency society was 'not the done thing for A Lady'. Jane must have enjoyed the irony when her first novel, *Sense and Sensibility*, was published – authored 'By a Lady'!

DEAD, her complete works headlining six novels we've all studied at school have been translated into 40 languages and sold over 30 million copies. Her portrait embellishes English £10 notes and her name is found everywhere – even on women's nighties embroidered with the legend, 'Not tonight – I'm reading Jane Austen'.

Jane was also a spinster which made her doubly invisible. Barred from having a career or going anywhere unchaperoned, she could only live on the charity of her father and three brothers who provided her ink and quills, acted as her publishing agents, and preserved her 'good name'. Although her identity was an open secret among the literati, her tombstone in Winchester Cathedral remains silent on the subject, crediting her only with being the daughter of a local vicar.

Jane had revenge in her novels, skewering Georgian society's genteel vanities with caustic characterisations of foolish parents, wayward daughters, pompous aristocrats, and grovelling vicars. She even lampooned the dissolute Prince Regent, George IV, her template for crude braggart John Thorpe in *Northanger Abbey*. >

1775 –1817 Jane's memorial gravestone at Winchester Cathedral. WyrdLight.com CC BY-SA 3.0 via Wikimedia Commons



Topaz crosses gifted by their brother to Jane and only sister Cassandra are referenced in *Mansfield Park*. By Luke Shears for Jane Austen's House

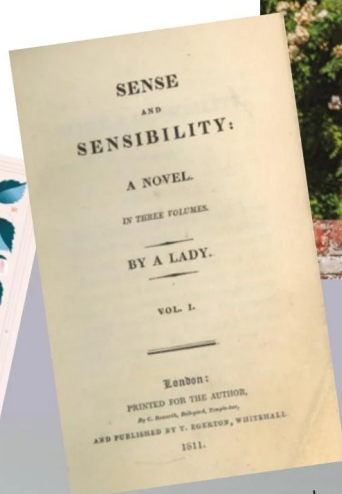
In fact 'Prinny' was a big fan, and Jane was uncomfortable when asked to dedicate *Emma* to the despised reigning Regent, although it was hardly an honour she could refuse!

She had to die to get her name in print – still not on the cover but in the biographical notes to *Persuasion* and *Northanger Abbey*, published six months after her demise, too soon at 41, probably from lymphatic cancer. It took another century for her name to join Homer's and Chaucer's in the Western Canon of Literature. But in 1870 the poet Tennyson paid her the highest compliment: 'Miss Austen understood the smallness of life to perfection. She was a great artist, equal in her small sphere to Shakespeare...'

Like the Bard, Miss Austen is required reading on the modern school syllabus – but a lot more current. In 1995, dubbed the Year of Austenmania after four of her novels hit TV and cinema screens, *Vanity Fair* called her 'the hottest writer in showbusiness'. And there's no sign she's cooling down. An Amazon Books survey named her Greatest British Author of All Time, ahead of JK Rowling, Roald Dahl and – Lord Tennyson was spot on – William Shakespeare! ›



250th birthday souvenir, published by Jane Austen's House



Jane's joke ... as no Lady in Regency society could write for money!



A *Pride & Prejudice* first edition, published in three volumes, sold for £87,500 in 2022



Jane's bedroom. By Luke Shears for Jane Austen's House



Jane Austen's House, Chawton village is party HQ

A REGENCY REVIVAL

Skintight breeches, lace-trimmed bonnets, and elegant empire line dresses will be resetting fashion trends all over Jane Austen's home county of Hampshire where every town and village connected with the author will play a period part. Balls, fairs, pop-up readings, drop-in writing sessions, sewing and piano classes, and lessons in Georgian line dancing will offer total Austen Era immersion.

At Jane Austen's House Museum in Chawton village where she completed six of her timeless classics during the last eight years of her life, her most intimate letters to her sister Cassandra will be on view at a new permanent exhibition, *Jane Austen and the Art of Writing*. Chawton will also host a four-season festival themed on different novels

with events streamed live online.

- » The Pride and Prejudice Festival (23-28 January) headlining Austenmania, an exhibition exploring modern adaptations. A chance to reprise Colin Firth's wet shirt scene throughout the entire year!
- » Sense & Sensibility (1-11 May) drawing on art, music, and the natural world.
- » Emma (12-20 July), focused on fashion with the museum's sell-out annual Dress Up Day.
- » Poetry & Persuasion (12-21 September) offering readings, workshops and walks.
- » Birthday Celebration Week (13-21 December) crowned by a 250th birthday bash online on December 16.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND TICKETS AT
WWW.JANEAUSTENS.HOUSE

Popular Dress Up Day at Jane Austen's House. By Rob Stothard





The BBC's 1995 version of *Pride & Prejudice* gave Austen sex appeal

Fibreglass Mr Darcy at Lyme Park Lake © Philip Halling, CC BY-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons

DARCYMANIA

Women worldwide swooned over Colin Firth's Mr Darcy whose sex appeal soared after the BBC's 1995 serialisation of *Pride & Prejudice*.

Passions were rekindled across the nation's living rooms as Firth strode sodden from a lake, his damp white shirt clinging to his manly chest, and ran straight into a blushing Jennifer Ehle in a scene Austen never actually wrote.

Firth's is considered the finest interpretation

of the role – better than Matthew Macfadyen, cast opposite Keira Knightley in the 2005 film: better even than Shakespearean actor Sir Laurence Olivier who starred with Greer Garson in the 1940 Hollywood version. His famous white shirt fetched an eye-watering £20,000 at auction last year.

Watched by 11 million British viewers, a TV period drama record, the series unleashed a stampede of visitors to the National Trust

properties where it was filmed, doubled Penguin's Austen book sales, and inspired journalist Helen Fielding to write a character called Mark Darcy into *Bridget Jones's Diary*, whom Firth also played in the film.

A 12-foot fibreglass Mr Darcy, produced to promote the series, was installed in the lake where the shoot took place at Lyme Park, Cheshire, which doubled as Darcy's



Pemberley Estate. No one complained when the ugly artwork was subsequently shipped off to Australia!.

THE CULT OF JANE

Guys may not think it's cool to like Jane Austen but men were among her first adoring fans.



Janeiteism, defined by Austen scholar Claudia Johnson as 'the self-consciously idolatrous enthusiasm for Jane and every detail relative to her', was a cult driven by 19th century publishers and academics who were all men in those days.

However British scholar H. W. Garrod was not alone in ridiculing Janeitism and dismissing Austen's works as Regency chicklit (though less than half the women in Regency England were actually literate). He denigrated the 'ludic enthusiasm' of Janeite reading clubs 'with their teas, costume balls, games, and dramatic representations, staged

with a campy anglophilia in North America, and a brisker antiquarian meticulousness in England'. And he rubbished Austen's 'soft' male characters in his blistering *Depreciation of Jane Austen* lecture to the Royal Society for Literature in 1928, stating that any man who liked her was 'effeminate, not a real man at all'.

Austen's global fan club today encompasses all genders who network over her novels, make pilgrimages to her Hampshire haunts, and share Regency recipes and dress patterns on their blogs. The Jane Austen Society of North America/ jasna.org has 65 branches and 5,000 members who eat,

sleep, and breathe Austen when they're not reading her. "There's a longing for the elegance of the time, an all but vanished Englishness and set of traditional values – it's an escape," says Myretta Robens, who runs the Republic of Pemberley, one of America's top fan sites.

While in Australia, Austen is the antidote to boorish behaviour. "Women can dress up, feel feminine and elegant, and the guys are gentlemen," marvels Aylwen Gardiner-Garden who runs Canberra's Jane Austen Festival. "Teenagers grow up overnight on the dance floor – their manners are fantastic!"

RACY STUFF

Bridgerton's black Queen Charlotte set tongues wagging but Jane Austen was two centuries ahead of the blockbuster Netflix series in introducing diversity to Regency romance.

In *Sanditon*, one of two novels she never finished, Austen introduces Miss Lambe, 'a young West Indian of large fortune... about 17, half mulatto, chilly and tender.'

And in *Mansfield Park*, she raises the inhumanity of English white men's treatment of black slaves. Which was pretty daring as slavery and mixed race heritage were taboo subjects for women to even speak of, let alone write about.

Sanditon, set around a chic Sussex seaside resort during the encroaching industrial age, remained an Austen novel hardly anyone had heard of until 2019 when it was sexed up for ITV by screenwriter Andrew Davies, inventor of the Colin Firth Lake Scene. ›

Jane's home county is throwing a party



“IT IS A TRUTH UNIVERSALLY
ACKNOWLEDGED, THAT A
SINGLE MAN IN POSSESSION OF
A GOOD FORTUNE MUST BE IN
WANT OF A WIFE”

*THE IRONIC OPENING
LINE TO PRIDE AND PREJUDICE*



Sanditon, adapted for ITV by Andrew Davies

Winchester
Cathedral,
Hampshire,
England.

It ran for three series, ending last year, and was also largely invention. The 11 chapters Austen wrote were used up in the first episode!

AGONY AUNT JANE

She wrote happy ever afters for her heroines and heroes but resigned herself to spinsterhood – a crime in Regency society where marriage for money, status, and family continuity was a daughterly duty. But Austen's uncompromising views on love are clear from her novels and letters.

'Happiness in marriage is entirely a matter of chance' she wrote in *Pride and Prejudice*; and in *Emma*, 'There is safety in reserve, but no attraction. One cannot love a reserved person.'

Nor did she hold back in a letter to her niece Fanny in 1814 who was considering a suitor's proposal. 'Anything is to be preferred or endured rather than marrying without affection, advised Agony Aunt Jane.

Austen's own life was not devoid of romance. There was a dashing Irish law student who lit a spark in her 20s. But as she pragmatically wrote to her beloved sister, Cassandra, he was expected to marry for money which put her out of the running. She did accept a proposal from one wealthy suitor but retracted next morning after a sleepless night.

Writing became her passion and she had plenty to say about Regency society's petty rules which meant women could rarely expect to marry for love.

'There are such beings in the world, perhaps one in a thousand, as the creature you and I should think perfection," she wrote to her niece. 'But such a person may not come in your way, or, if he does, he may not be the eldest son of a man of fortune, the near relation of your particular friend, and belonging to your own county.' 📧



1940s MGM movie poster

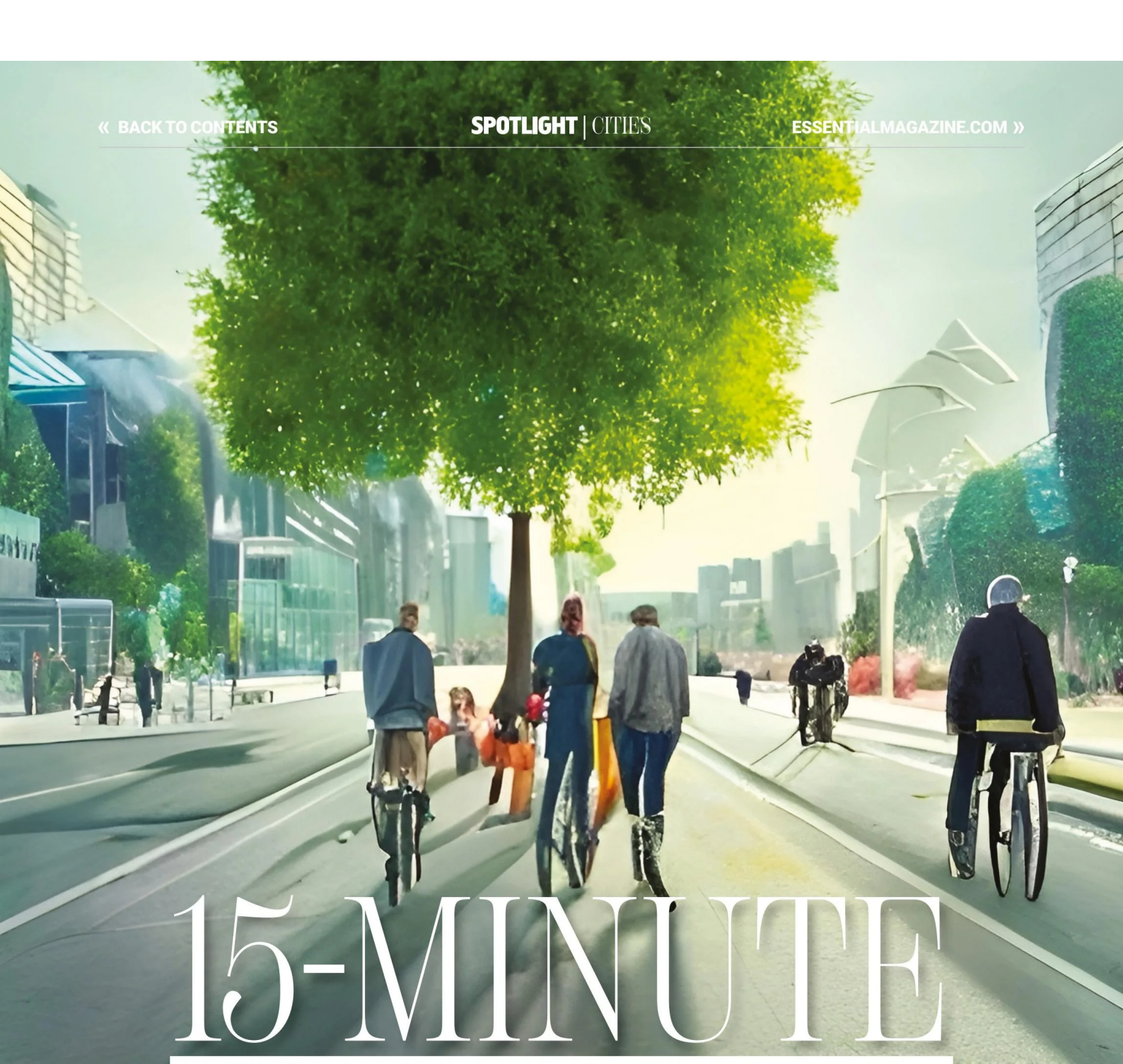
“SELFISHNESS
MUST ALWAYS BE
FORGIVEN YOU
KNOW, BECAUSE
THERE IS NO
HOPE OF A CURE”
MANSFIELD PARK



The dining room at Jane Austen's House



Jane's kitchen at Chawton



15-MINUTE CITIES

An idealised vision
of the (mostly)
car-free city/suburb
with a 15km radius
©AdobeStock

The 15-minute city is one of those concepts that has been mentioned so much that it has gained a loaded connotation of its own, quite often without direct relation to its original meaning.

WORDS **MICHEL CRUZ** PHOTOGRAPHY **ADOBE STOCK, UNSPLASH & TRAVEL PORTLAND**



Bicycles certainly create a more peaceful, more sustainable city
Robert V. Ruggiero © Unsplash

City centres used to be dense, laden with movement, and people, horses and carts made their way through them. Then came the train and car, and the city grew outwards, as more and more people could live in suburbs and commute to work. However, over time the network of roads grew overloaded with the sheer number of cars, trucks, and busses on them, and the city turned from a pedestrian environment into one where honking, polluting cars filled every nook and cranny. This is also true of parking, which like the freedom of the road has become increasingly hard to find. ›



Denmark and The Netherlands lead the way in inner city bike transport
Rolands Varsbergs © Unsplash



Reviving suburban communities can have many social, environmental, and economic benefits

Tony Lee © Unsplash

The aim is to reduce car traffic by providing services within a bike ride's distance Boxed Water © Unsplash



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Faced with this situation, and increasing amounts of smog pollution, cities began to ponder solutions. Different answers arose, all valid but not universally applied until now that the problem of congestion has truly become staggering. Familiar with a shortage of space, the Dutch devised a so-called break-bulk system that favoured downtown shopping over American-style malls and led cars from

the suburbs into a series of carparks on the outskirts of the pedestrianised city centre, from where you could stroll to all amenities.

This concept is being picked up again on a greater scale as part of what is being coined the '15-minute city', which also aims to provide all services within a 15-minute bike/bus ride or walk, but this time focusing on the suburban areas that surround a city centre – in

other words, the 15-minute concept is now being devised to reduce movement into the congested centres and ensure that people stay in their own immediate (home) surroundings more. The latest version of the concept has become associated with Anne Hidalgo, the Mayor of Paris, who has worked hard to reduce congestion and pollution in the French capital and once more create a gentler urban environment.

Bringing sleepy suburbs back to life Wayne W © Unsplash





The 15-minute concept will not likely turn cities into parkland paradises
© Justin Katigbak, Travel Portland

The core principle of the concept is therefore to pedestrianise downtown and suburban centres, divert or restrict cars from entering there, and creating hubs that provide everything from shopping and dining to offices, sports facilities, cultural centres, and nightlife. Public transport and walking/cycling paths feature heavily in this concept, which is being rolled out in major cities such as Paris, Melbourne, Copenhagen, Barcelona, Portland (USA), Bogota in Colombia, Milan, Tokyo, London, Amsterdam, Seoul, Stockholm, Vancouver, and Vienna, to name a few – and of course closer to home in Málaga and now also in Estepona.

CONTROVERSY

While the idea of pedestrianising historic quarters, providing bike lanes, and also reviving local suburban centres to reduce the massive daily flow of traffic are long-established and generally welcomed as positive initiatives that ultimately improve the quality of life, the overall concept of 15-minute cities has not been without controversy. Many regard the sudden acceleration of such projects as a means to restrict travel (see also air travel), freedom of movement and as such contain people within ever-smaller living environments. This, it is said, so that the elites of the world can have that world all to themselves.



One aim, 15-minute cities may be effectively car-free Daniele Salutari © Unsplash



Bicycle lanes replacing car-clogged roads Ricky Davis © Unsplash



More public transport is another part of the solution Denys Nevozhai © Unsplash

While this is not part of the original thinking behind finding solutions for overcrowding and congestion, some justification can be found in the way the Covid lockdowns were managed, as well as in such elitist measures as the congestion charges implemented in the centres of cities like London, Singapore, Hong Kong, and now also New York. These have effectively cleared the centres of all traffic to the benefit of those who can afford the charges. Some critics also point to the fact that Klaus Schwab of the World Economic Forum (WEF) openly promotes the concept of state-dependent restricted movement on its website, saying that: "You will own nothing [including a home] and everything you need will be brought to you [by drone]" - implying that we will no longer be as free to move around as we please. The same

scenario may be lining up for international air travel, all of which is said by both sides of the discussion to be part of the 2030 Agenda.

The desire to reduce the pollution and congestion associated with the out-of-control motor vehicle era, to create pedestrian zones, bike lanes, green zones, better public transportation, and to revitalise local communities and suburban centres can of course be nothing but positive. Important here is not just what is done but how it is approached, and in this an open, transparent dialogue with the public is of vital importance to ensure 1) that the right choices are made, 2) that these will benefit from the cooperation of the public, 3) that they will therefore be successful, and 4) to ensure that the motives remain pure, proper, and in the interest of us all. **e**

Developing suburbs into self-contained towns where you spend most of your life Isaac Burke © Unsplash



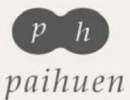
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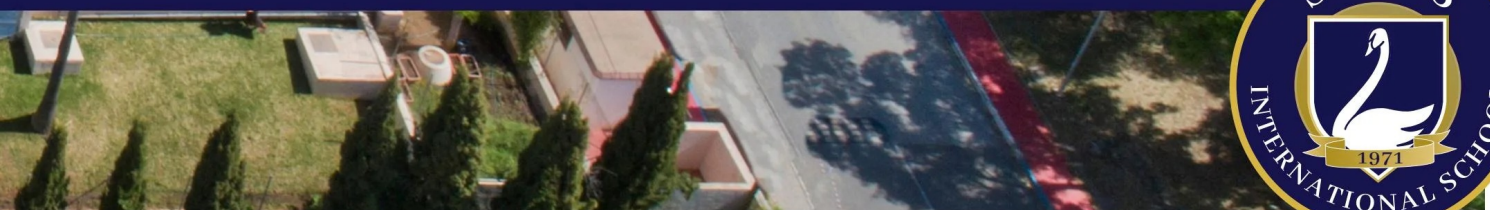


Swans Debate Team 2025

Swans School Wins Triple Golds making it the top performing school at the IBOL NESDA Speech and Debate competition and establishes its position as the leading debating team on the Iberian Peninsula!

Achieving a remarkable victory at the NESDA Debate Competition in Barcelona, **one of Europe's most prestigious debating events**, Swans School won gold medals in all three categories: debating, impromptu speaking, and duet acting. Chris and Mika celebrated their third consecutive gold in duet acting, while Olha made history by securing the school's first-ever gold in impromptu speaking. Filippa, Darina, and Olha dominated in debating, marking their second consecutive year of victory. These achievements reflect the school's

commitment to developing exceptional skills in argumentation and rhetoric, preparing students for successful futures. Alumni from this programme have gone on to study and lead debate teams at top universities, including Cambridge and Durham. Swans' long-term dedication to debate has yielded impressive results, their triumph in this elite competition sets the stage for the school's entry into the European NESDA league. Congratulations to all involved—exciting times lie ahead!



www.swansschool.com

JASON DECAIRES TAYLOR

WHEN ART IS A GIFT
TO THE OCEANS

WORDS **MARISA CUTILLAS** PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF **JASON DECAIRES TAYLOR**





“IT IS NOT THE LANGUAGE OF
PAINTERS BUT THE LANGUAGE
OF NATURE WHICH ONE SHOULD
LISTEN TO, THE FEELING FOR
THE THINGS THEMSELVES, FOR
REALITY IS MORE IMPORTANT
THAN THE FEELING FOR
PICTURES”

VINCENT VAN GOGH

Art is often thought of
as a static concept...
a painting, sculpture,
or installation whose
beauty is frozen in
time, very much

like the lovers painted in Keats’
Ode to a Grecian Urn. Yet if Van
Gogh’s advice is to be heeded, and
nature becomes the master, then
art should, by nature, be fluid and
evolving. But what if this idea could
be taken even further? What if art
could do its share to contribute to
nature and give back a tiny fraction
of so much that has been taken
away from the planet’s land and
oceans? This very idea is the driver
behind the work of a unique artist
– the English-Guyanese sculptor,
environmentalist, and professional
underwater photographer, Jason
deCaires Taylor. ›

Vicissitudes in Grenada depicts a circle of life-size
casts taken from a group of children of diverse
ethnic backgrounds

Taylor graduated from the London Institute of Arts in 1998 with a BA Honours in Sculpture, becoming the first of a new generation of artists to shift the concepts of the Land art movement into the realm of the marine environment. Over the past two decades, he has been one of the first artists to transform underwater realms into public art spaces and is best known for his numerous large-scale underwater museums and sculpture parks. His stunning sculptures are submerged in the waters surrounding numerous

countries, including Mexico, Grenada, the UK, the Bahamas, the Maldives, Spain, Indonesia, Norway, France, Cyprus, and Australia.

To gain an understanding of the size, weight, and impact of his work, I suggest visiting his wonderful website, where you can view stills and videos of the many sculptures that now call the seabed home. They range from colossal faces (see the Cannes Underwater Eco-Museum in Île Sainte-Marguerite, France) to works featuring countless human

figures lying together and forming a circle (Human Gyre, Museo Atlántico, Lanzarote, Spain). His art speaks of the powerful bond between human beings and the environment. *The Human Gyre*, for instance, begs us to consider the effect of plastic pollution on our oceans. A 'gyre' is a large system of rotating ocean currents, of which there are five in the world. However, the term is also used to refer to the collections of plastic waste and other debris found in higher concentrations in certain parts of the ocean.

Reclamation, in Punta Nizuc, Mexico, featuring attached coral that gently rocks back and forth with the movement of the sea





Man on Fire, located off the coast of Isla Mujeres (Mexico) and cast from a local fisherman, stands towards the current with fragments of implanted fire coral on his head and torso

Taylor is as much an environmental warrior as he is an artist. In our interview, he tells me that he chanced upon the idea of creating underwater sculptures while working as a diving instructor in the Caribbean. Indeed, few individuals other than divers and marine biologists are quite as aware of the devastating collapse currently faced by our oceans and marine ecosystems. Taylor's website warns, "According to a study published in the

journal *Science*, less than four per cent of the oceans remain unaffected by human activity. With a multitude of threats present, scientists are predicting a dramatic demise of 90 per cent of our natural reefs by 2050. Oceans and reefs are at the forefront of climate change – the canaries in the coal mine – and could be one of the first major ecosystems to be devastated by human activity."

Another major threat is global warming, with The

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change predicting that global sea levels may rise by as much as 69cm during the next 100 years. This phenomenon is already having a major impact on marine ecosystems, which, says Taylor, "are incredibly sensitive to small increases in temperature and can cause an El Niño effect, leading to the widespread bleaching of coral reefs." Global warming leads to a rise in the number of tropical storms and hurricanes, which also devastate reef systems. ›



Silent Evolution in Mexico, featuring the bright red pigments of a living sponge

Coralarium in the Maldives features embedded coral collected from the shore, demonstrating how the coral reefs are part of the DNA of Maldivians

Then there are problems like ocean acidification, overfishing, pollution, and tourism impact. For instance, overfishing has led to an alarming decline in the number of numerous species that are key players in the underwater food chain. Methods like bottom trawling and dynamite fishing, he explains, are “the land equivalent of razing a forest to the ground... The removal of herbivorous fish, which normally graze on algae, is causing an abundance of algal blooms, which in turn transforms the ocean substrates, eventually smothering and destroying natural marine habitats and coral reefs.” Finally, we cannot ignore habitat loss caused by construction and development, the removal of vegetation, and other manmade stressors. ›



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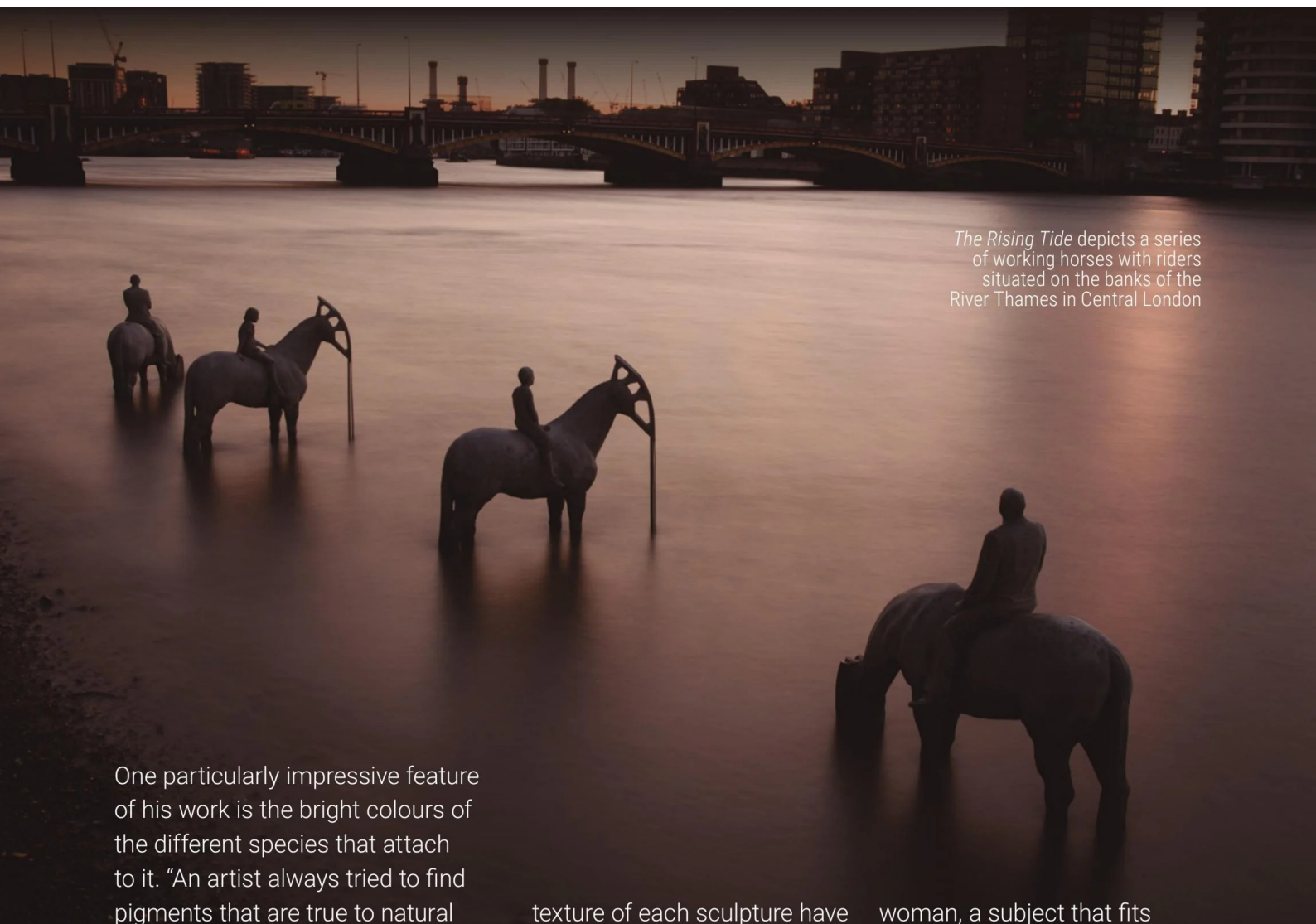
Many of Taylor's artworks are placed in the ocean not just to serve as objects of beauty to behold but also as a means to create artificial reefs and, therefore, restore ecosystems. The works have a pH-neutral surface, similar to that of an inert rock that encourages life and evolves over time. Strains of white and pink coralline algae attach themselves to the sculptures, and eventually, a new reef is created. Taylor explains that when he visits

installations from 15 years back, "I can barely recognise them.... They are covered in corals and surrounded by huge schools of fish. The more complex the sculpture is, the more fish live inside it." In fact, many of his works have started a chain of events that foster the survival of numerous species. "In Norway, we installed a floating sculpture that became home to so many species – first came the oysters, and then the

tunicates (commonly called sea squirts). Then, small fish began hiding under the structures. They, in turn, attracted the bigger fish like cod, as well as seagulls, who feasted on the oysters and mussels. More large-sized fish arrived, and finally, the biggest prey in this chain, the seals, began hunting the cod. From tiny species and shrimps all the way to an apex predator like the seal, the sculptures have given rise to a whole chain of life."

The Raft of Lampedusa in Lanzarote





The Rising Tide depicts a series of working horses with riders situated on the banks of the River Thames in Central London

One particularly impressive feature of his work is the bright colours of the different species that attach to it. "An artist always tried to find pigments that are true to natural colours, but some of the deepest, most vivid colours I've seen are those found underwater," he says. One of the most marvellous colours is a deep blood-red, produced by a sponge that has attached to various sculptures. "It has veins and capillaries and has a translucent effect, like human skin," Some species lend the sculptures movement. This is the case of tunicates, which attach upside-down, their filaments moving gracefully in the water.

The effect the sculptures have on the marine environment naturally necessitates the involvement of marine biologists, with whom Taylor collaborates closely. The size, shape, and

texture of each sculpture have a big role to play in fostering ocean health, and every detail is customised depending on the environmental goal. He tells me, for instance, that in his sculpture in Norway, very small holes were created in the work so that juvenile cod could hide in them. "These holes have to be around six centimetres long," he explains. Every sculpture has its own requirements since regional needs vary greatly.

When I recently spoke to Taylor, he was working on a piece for the island of Tokunoshima in the south of Japan. It is a 50-tonne sculpture of a pregnant

woman, a subject that fits its new home so perfectly since, as he says, "the sea is the beginning of life. It is a womb, a nurturing place from which we all came millions of years ago." His work was commissioned to help curb the problem of rural flight. "The island is known for its high birth rate and older population. Youths are moving to big cities, causing cultural and economic decline. My work is part of a strategy to instil local pride and involve more young people in the island's cultural activities."

Fascinatingly, Taylor funded all his own work in the beginning. ›

"When I was a diving instructor in the Caribbean, I forged a good relationship with the government, and they allowed me to explore my own ideas and gave me free rein to create underwater sculptures.

I realise now that if I had started somewhere like Australia or the UK, it would probably have been much more difficult because everything is so regulated. My earlier work was very experimental and was self-funded or made possible by small grants. Over the years, I managed to build up a body of work whose outcomes I could show to different countries."

In the beginning, the artist moved from country to

country, residing in the areas that housed his sculptures. Today, he has a studio near London. When a new project is commissioned, he travels to the area and makes decisions regarding the size, scheme, and design, finding inspiration from local references. The moulds for the sculptures are created at his UK studio and carefully exported to their destination in a container. "I fly out and put it all together," he explains, adding that the works can take anywhere between six months to four years to create and install.

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A monumental portrait in the Cannes Underwater Eco-Museum





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The Raft of Lampedusa in Lanzarote carries 13 refugees towards an unknown future



A World Adrift in Grenada, highlighting the vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to rising sea levels.



A living sculpture in Oslo, Norway

Fascinatingly, Taylor funded all his own work in the beginning. "When I was a diving instructor in the Caribbean, I forged a good relationship with the government, and they allowed me to explore my own ideas and gave me free rein to create underwater sculptures. I realise now that if I had started somewhere like Australia or the UK, it would probably have been much more difficult because everything is so regulated. My earlier work was very experimental and was self-funded or made possible by small grants. Over the years, I managed to build up a body of work whose outcomes I could show to different countries." In the beginning, the artist moved from country to country, residing in the areas that housed his sculptures. Today, he has a studio

near London. When a new project is commissioned, he travels to the area and makes decisions regarding the size, scheme, and design, finding inspiration from local references. The moulds for the sculptures are created at his UK studio and carefully exported to their destination in a container. "I fly out and put it all together," he explains, adding that the works can take anywhere between six months to four years to create and install. If you live in Spain and you're keen to see Taylor's work in person, head to the Museo Atlántico in Lanzarote, which is 12 metres deep. It was the first underwater museum in Europe, and it is still the largest museum on the continent. Designed as a huge artificial reef, it comprises 10 different groups of sculptures,

including *The Rubicon* – a group of 35 human figures walking towards a wall. The models used for these sculptures are residents of Lanzarote. Other famous works are the *Raft of Lampedusa* (a reference to the refugee crisis in Europe) and *Los Jolateros* (featuring children in boats who represent the fragile future faced by future generations). There are also several hybrid sculptures (half human, half cactus) depicting the intertwining of man and nature. Each piece is graced with deep symbolism; each is a cry for the need to protect the gifts that nature has bestowed upon us.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE EXACT LOCATION OF TAYLOR'S MANY IMPRESSIVE WORKS, WWW.UNDERWATERSCULPTURE.COM



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FERRARI F80

A decade after the LaFerrari roared into life, Ferrari's new showstopper has been unveiled, ushering in some incredible advancements in hybrid tyre-slaying at the hands of an all-new multi-million-euro hyper car.

WORDS **SAM HEXTER** PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF **FERRARI**



Ferrari's new pinnacle of performance, the F80, has arguably been in the making for the last 40 years. Following in the rather enormous footsteps of the 288 GTO, F40, F50, Enzo, and most recently, LaFerrari, the F80 is a culmination of engineering expertise and design prowess. Designed to compete in an elite segment of the market against the likes of McLaren's W1, and no

doubt something special from Porsche to succeed the 918, the F80 represents the very best of Ferrari's current road-going capabilities, and from what we know of it so far, it's pure drama.

Unlike the car it succeeds, LaFerrari, the F80 isn't powered by a signature V12, but a twin-turbo V6 with some hybrid wizardry to assist. The inspiration for the motor comes from the same engine that Ferrari secured consecutive wins at

Le Mans in the formidable 499P but offers some evolved architecture to make it a little more friendly for road use. The new 3-litre V6 is more compact, more lightweight, and packs more power per litre than the outbound V12. Assisted by two turbochargers, the clever Ferrari tech under the hood uses electric motors to help the turbos spool instantly, meaning no lag and much more aggressive and instantaneous power delivery.





And deliver it does! The internal combustion proportion of the drivetrain in isolation produces 888bhp, which is an impressive 234bhp more than the V6 powering the 296 GTB.

But wait, there's more. There's an additional 295bhp on tap thanks to three proprietary electric motors – two located each end of the front axle, one near the engine pan – bringing up the total output of the F80 to a staggering 1,183bhp, cementing it as the most powerful road-legal car Ferrari has ever produced. There's an 800v battery unit located centrally in the chassis, behind the seats, laden with top F1-inspired tech that

allow some seriously quick charging and discharging. To the surprise and possibly delight of petrolhead purists, an electric-only power mode isn't available.

What does all 1,183bhp feel like on the road? Well, the F80 will rip to 100 km/h in just 2.15 seconds – more than capable of seeing off almost anything else imaginable out there. Even more impressively, the ferocious Ferrari will push on to 200 km/h in just 5.75 seconds, and then onto a maximum velocity of 350km/h. Which is truly bonkers. And it's faster in a straight-line sprint than its closest rival, the rear-wheel driven McLaren W1. The

power meets the road via an eight-speed DCT transmission and a choice of either Michelin Pilot Sport Cup 2 or Pilot Sport Cup 2Rs. In its final form, the 4WD F80 has a dry weight of 1,525kg, approximately 125kg more than the McLaren W1. But the F80 easily offsets its extra heft with superior traction thanks to its industry-leading four-wheel drive system.

From the outside, the F80 is objectively good to look at, though there's a lot to unpack. Your immediate attention will be drawn to the snout, which features the same blacked-out design as the awfully named 12Cilindri.



From every angle, the F80 shows off different flaps and ducts and vents and louvers, responsible for sucking air over, under, and through the car. The whole thing is an aerodynamic marvel. The rear wing can raise up to 200mm above its seated position, and can tilt in

dramatic fashion to act as an airbrake for additional stopping power.

But it's function and form at play, contributing to a seriously impressive 1,050kg of downforce on the roofline at 250km/h.

As with all the most flamboyant hypercars, the butterfly doors grace

the sky to welcome you into the cabin, set within an ultra-rigid carbon-fibre tub, adorned with very wide sills on each flank. Ferrari claim the F80 to be a 1+1 seating layout, which is a stretch by semantics, but enough to make your passenger feel truly unimportant. ›





Which makes sense, as everything is focused around the driver in the F80. The copilot's seat is staggered slightly further back than the driver's position, allowing the overall footprint of the cockpit to be reduced by 50mm. Every little helps. Each physical touchpoint inside the cabin is appropriately finished in lavish, soft touch textures, as you may well expect for a multi-million-euro purchase.

Ferrari will only be making 799 of these wonderful machines, and the release will

coincide with the marque's 80th anniversary – hence the name. Each product vehicle is very likely already accounted for on an exclusive client list, and has set back new owners approximately €3.7 million before local taxes and a quick browse of the bespoke options menu. How it drives on the road is yet to be seen, but if it measures up to be anything like it is on paper, the successor to the LaFerrari is set to be a winner for generations to come. 

» **POWER** 1,183bhp and 1075 nm-torque

» **0-100KM/H** 2.15 seconds

» **TOP SPEED** 350 km/h

» **MARKET**

ALTERNATIVES McLaren W1 or something from Porsche yet to be revealed...

» **PRICE** From €3.7 million plus local taxes



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Rachel Zegler stars in one of the year's predicted blockbusters – Disney's highly awaited live-action version of the classic tale of Snow White. Marisa Cutillas delves into the controversy that surrounds the talented actor.



SNOW WHITE IN
THE BLOCKBUSTER
OF THE MONTH:

RACHEL ZEGLER

I first came across the actress Rachel Zegler in 2021, as Spain and much of the world struggled to move beyond one of the most difficult years in recent history. It was a time when the mind and heart craved the beauty and tranquillity afforded by nature, but also yearned for the wonderful escapism provided by art. That year, Steven Spielberg released what many thought would be a project doomed to failure: *West Side Story*, a remake of the classic 1961 film starring Rita Moreno, Natalie Wood, and Russ Tamblyn. The film itself was an adaptation of the 1957 Broadway musical of the same title, inspired by Shakespeare's

Romeo and Juliet. It delved into the clash between two teenage gangs. One gang, the Jets, was a group of white New Yorkers led by Riff. The other was a group of Puerto Ricans headed by Bernardo.

The film was the highest-grossing of 1961 and was nominated for 11 Academy Awards – of which it won 10. It had everything one could ask from a film belonging to this genre – talented singers like Rita Moreno, a romantic plot, and social commentary. Throughout the film, the audience is presented with the idea that the most vulnerable members of society often end up destroying each other instead of uniting to make

their voices louder. As such, it added an element of social critique to Shakespeare's tale of impossible love.

As a big fan of *West Side Story* since my childhood, I must say I fell completely in love with the 2021 remake from the first bright, bold, captivating scene. Spielberg's cinematographer Janusz Kamiński stated that they wanted to bring a "modern, active energy" to the camera movement, which differed greatly from the static 1961 version. And what a pleasant surprise the film's casting was! Talented actor and DJ, Ansel Elgort, played Tony to perfection, his impressive height and strength contrasting with his vulnerable facial features. ›



Maria was played by Rachel Zegler – a young Latina singer who had made a name for herself in various musicals and singing on her successful YouTube channel (her rendition of Lady Gaga’s *Shallow* has over 3.8 million views). As big a legend as Natalie Wood is, there was something refreshing about seeing Maria played by a teen with a spellbinding voice. Fans will recall that Wood’s singing was dubbed in the film, much to her dismay. In the 2021 version, every note comes from the actors themselves, and the most memorable voice of the movie is undoubtedly Zegler’s.

Since then, it has been a pleasure to see Zegler cast in films like *The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds &*

Snakes (2023), in which she plays the lead character Lucy Gray Baird. In the same year, she was also cast in *Shazam! Fury of the Gods*, playing the key character of Anthea. In 2024, she voiced Princess Ellian in the hit animation, *Spellbound* and was also cast in the apocalyptic science fiction comedy horror film *Y2K*. This month, she stars as the titular character in *Snow White* alongside Gal Gadot, who plays her evil stepmother. It’s a film that is highly awaited by Disney fans, but also one that has generated considerable polemic owing to the OTT reactions to a couple of Zegler’s comments. Well, it wasn’t only her comments... it was also the fact that Disney cast a Latina in the role of Snow

White, a character described in stories as someone with “skin as white as snow.” Zegler was subjected to harassment, with individuals showing up at her door to scream insults at her. The conflict was further fuelled when she stated that the original animated version of *Snow White* was “very evidently” a product of the 1930s, “There’s a big focus on her love story with a guy who literally stalks her,” she stated, adding that the 2025 film was “really not about the love story at all,” but rather all about Snow White’s ‘inner journey’ to “find her true self.” She asked, “Why would people just assume it’s a lovely story just because there is a guy in it?” Oddly enough, Gal Gadot also expressed that the film was

more about empowerment than romance, but the brunt of the criticism was born by Zegler.

In another statement made to the press, Zegler stated that the film's most famous phrase, 'the fairest of them all' would refer to justice rather than beauty – quite a refreshing take, one might think, on the ideal of 'fairness.' She additionally showed her support for the SAG-AFTRA strike (an actors' strike), stating, "If I'm going to stand there 18 hours in a dress, then I deserve to be paid for every hour that it is streamed online." Her words were heavily criticised, as she is a highly paid actor who seemed to be complaining without reason. In fact, it is more likely that she was simply expressing her support for the rights of actors to earn a decent wage.

Of course, the issues with this film go beyond Zegler herself. Talented actor Peter Dinklage accused Disney of double standards by attending to racial diversity in the film while propagating dangerous stereotypes about dwarves: "I was a little

taken aback by [the fact] they were very proud to cast a Latina actress as Snow White," he told podcaster Marc Maron, "but you're still telling the story of *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. You're progressive in one way but you're still making that ***ing backward story of seven dwarves living in the cave. What the f*** are you doing, man? Have I done nothing to advance the cause from my soapbox? I guess I'm not loud enough."

Disney responded, "To avoid reinforcing stereotypes from the original animated film, we are taking a different approach with these seven characters and have been consulting with members of the dwarfism community." The result? Disney decided to use CGI dwarves, thereby eliminating seven dream jobs for dwarf actors. I'm still not sure how presenting the dwarves as CGI characters addresses Dinklage's incisive comments. As stated in *Forbes* by Zach Roloff of the popular television series, *Little People, Big World*, "Disney's decision to rebrand the dwarfs and use CGI is a form of erasure of this specific disability community." Zegler added fuel to the fire by saying how much "fun" it was to act opposite CGI characters. As *The Wayne Stater* writer Hannah Keller stated, "While using CGI might be fun for Zegler, she was an actress playing the main character in the movie, not one being replaced by technology." ›



How could this classic Disney film about one of the most beloved fairytale characters of all time have generated so much negative buzz? What's more, are Zegler's clearly unfiltered comments truly meritorious of so much hate? Probably not. Most of her comments, when taken in context and combined with nonverbal language, clearly demonstrate a young person who is simply speaking what's on her mind, filter-free. In a world in which everything is viewed through a magnifying lens, commented upon, and retweeted out of context, it is easy to create a villain, much

more so when she is part of a film that some deem to perpetuate 'cultural appropriation'. Interestingly, critics who seem horrified that Zegler should play Snow White were also angry when Halle Bailey, an African-American actor, was cast as Ariel in Disney's live-action remake of *The Little Mermaid* (2023). And that situation, in turn, echoed previous drama when Brandy Norwood became the first African-American actor to play Cinderella in 1997. The question is, to what extent does it matter? Those who back diverse casting choices state that a great actor should be able to play any character. Others say that fairytale characters are fictional and often based on characters from myth and legend. Finally, when it comes to musicals, it is vital to find a lead who can really sing... and Zegler more than proved her incredible talent in *West Side Story*. It's an interesting debate, to say the least, but let's get to numbers... will the polemic affect the film's sales?

The 2023 version of *The Little Mermaid* grossed \$298.2 million in the United States and Canada, and \$271.5 million in other territories, for a worldwide total of \$569.6 million (around €547.84 million). Ross Bonaime of *Collider* wrote that it "might not match the greatness of the original, but it's the rare remake that feels worthy of being part of our world." Brian Lowry of CNN wrote that it held up well under the burden of so many expectations, "reserving the original's essence while updating undernourished aspects of it and riding a warm, hard-to-resist wave of nostalgia." Will Zegler's undeniable charm and beautiful voice be enough of an antidote to the poison apple of social media and the press? I certainly hope so – CIG dwarves notwithstanding. 



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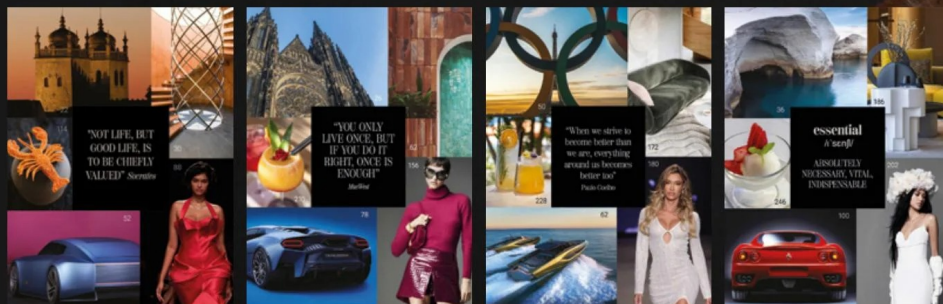
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Meet José Antonio Mena, the popular Mayor of Benahavís. See coffee drinking trends in the office, courtesy of Nespresso. Preview upcoming blockbusters on the big screen and binge-worthy new TV series. Check out what's trending in Spain and further afield.

trends

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what's cool?

WORDS BY IAIN BLACKWELL & MARISA CUTILLAS

W MALDIVES CELEBRATES GRAND REOPENING THIS MONTH

W Maldives, the iconic luxury resort nestled in the North Ari Atoll, welcomes guests back with a bold, full-scale transformation that redefines the island escape. After nearly two decades as a standard-bearer in luxury Maldivian hospitality, the resort now features an entirely reimagined design and elevated guest experience that combines W's signature free spirit with the island's natural splendour.

WWW.MARRIOTT.COM





CIRCOLO POPOLARE CELEBRATES PISTACHIO DAY

Circolo Popolare, the Big Mamma group's third restaurant in Madrid, chose a fitting occasion – World Pistachio Day – to announce its brand-new offering: a pistachio tiramisu. The dessert is the restaurant's interpretation of the Italian classic, taken to another level with an irresistible combination of pistachio and an extra meltable mascarpone cream.

| WWW.CIRCOLOPOPOLARE.COM

HELENA CHRISTENSEN IS THE NEW GLOBAL CREATIVE DIRECTOR OF BOCONCEPT

Talented supermodel and photographer Helena Christensen has been appointed BoConcept's new Global Creative Director. Helena contributes her unique experience and perspective to BoConcept's new 'Art of Living Danishly' campaign, bringing to life what it means to live well through inspiring content, lifestyle pieces, and conversations with other Danish creatives about the Danish essence.

| WWW.BOCONECEPT.COM





THE HOTEL REGINA BARCELONA COMPLETES EXTENSIVE RENOVATIONS

The Hotel Regina, launched in 1917, has undergone extensive renovations with an aim to adapt to the permanently vibrant and changing city that is Barcelona. Its stunning new interiors, designed by the WIT Barcelona studio, mark it as a timeless hotel that maintains its dual essence and marries the classic elegance of the past to modern design.

| WWW.REGINAHOTEL.COM

BEST LUXURY COCKTAIL BAR IN MADRID

Lovo Bar, the iconic space inspired by the legendary Josephine Baker and the look and feel of the Parisian Roaring 20s, has been awarded the prestigious Luxury Lifestyle Award as the Best Luxury Cocktail Bar in Madrid 2025. This award is endorsed by the World Luxury Chamber of Commerce, a seal that distinguishes the best brands in the world.

| WWW.LOVOBAR.COM



PAGANI AUTOMOBILI AT THE I.C.E. 2025

Pagani Automobili kicked off 2025 by participating in The I.C.E. St. Moritz – International Concours of Elegance. This year's edition introduced a new format, featuring activities on the enchanting frozen lake and an extensive program of experiences throughout the famous Swiss town. Numerous vehicles were on show and in the heart of St. Moritz, including the new Utopia Roadster, the Huayra R, and the Zonda S.

| WWW.PAGANI.COM



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ATZARÓ GROUP ANNOUNCES NEW AFRICA ADVENTURES

The Atzaró Group is pleased to announce new adventures in Africa in 2025, combining a sophisticated stay in Cape Town with a wildly luxurious escape in Botswana's Okavango Delta. Last year, Atzaró Group opened two stunning new properties, Atzaró Cape Town and Atzaró Okavango designed to complement one another and create the ultimate African odyssey.

| WWW.ATZARO-OKAVANGO.COM

HARRISON FORD IS THE FACE OF GLENMORANGIE WHISKY

Glenmorangie Single Malt Scotch Whisky has unveiled a new global campaign starring iconic film actor Harrison Ford. 'Once Upon a Time in Scotland' takes Ford on a journey to visit Glenmorangie's home in the Highlands. There, he discovers the knowledge and skills required to craft each bottle of this complex and elegant whisky.

| WWW.GLENMORANGIE.COM



JOSÉ ANTONIO MENA

MAYOR OF PROSPERITY

JOSÉ ANTONIO MENA, MAYOR OF BENAHAVÍS, OVERSEES THE MOST PROSPEROUS VILLAGE IN ALL OF SPAIN IN WHAT IS THE MOST SEAMLESSLY MANAGED OPERATION ON THE COSTA DEL SOL.

WORDS **MICHEL CRUZ** PHOTOGRAPHY **KEVIN HORN**

Benahavís is the richest village in the region not because it sits on a well of oil, but because of an asset of a different kind. Here the wealth comes from the fact that ultra-

luxurious country clubs such as La Zagaleta, El Madroñal, La Reserva de Alcuzcuz, La Quinta, Los Arqueros, The Marbella Club Golf Resort, La Heredia, Montemayor, and more, fall within the large municipal territory of this pretty hillside village.

Not so long ago, Benahavís was a particularly scenic version of a traditional white Andalusian mountain village, set within a green valley surrounded by mountain ranges. Back then, it still had a mill producing fresh olive oil. There were still orchards and craftsmen at work, but over time these disappeared (ah, modernity!) and the village became a tourist attraction for its country restaurants, and pretty cobbled streets and squares.

The true driver of the economy had long since become the municipal fees and professional services paid by the above-mentioned country clubs, especially La Zagaleta, some of whose mansions are visible from the village. Though still young, Mayor José Antonio Mena has overseen a good part of this trajectory, managing it with professional skill and a long-term vision that is born out of love for his hometown.

THE SIGN OF A POPULAR MAYOR

Having been Concejal de Urbanismo from 2003-2007, José Antonio Mena took on the

role of Mayor in 2007, a position he has held for 18 years! This entails being re-elected many times, and that kind of mandate is a clear sign of popularity – in other words, that you're doing something right. Visit Benahavís and you'll get a clear idea of why that is. A Benahavileño born and raised, the mayor is a lawyer by training and still has responsibilities in the family business, yet he has overseen the successful transition from a traditional economy to a modern one.

"We are nostalgic for the old Benahavís, but times have changed, and many villages have struggled to maintain a sense of dynamic in their economic and social life. We've been lucky enough to have a powerful resource in the form of the luxury urbanisations that fall within our municipality, and the building licences, taxes and other services, and levies they generate for the village have made it possible to invest in an excellent infrastructure, maintain Benahavís pretty and green, as well as drive modern economic initiatives."

In a region where this can

vary greatly, Benahavís is known as a very well-run municipality, where a great deal has been invested in the infrastructure as well as beautification projects that range from parks and public gardens to new roads, pedestrian areas, hiking trails, technical infrastructure, restoration projects, cultural events, and also new schools, community spaces, and sports facilities – and this in turn has attracted not only more visitors but also increased private investment.

"We work as a team, using a combination of heart and mind that drives things forward and looks to modernise and improve based on faculties of know-how and common sense." In this, the mayor and his team have become known for maintaining a very wise balance between ambition and common sensical moderation. "We are ambitious for our village, but we don't lose our heads with glory projects that would cost a lot of money but bring little benefit to our citizens, unlike some towns and cities have done in the past." ›

“WE WORK AS A TEAM, USING A COMBINATION OF HEART AND MIND THAT DRIVES THINGS FORWARD AND LOOKS TO MODERNISE AND IMPROVE BASED ON FACULTIES OF KNOW-HOW AND COMMON SENSE”



Though the town hall has a fair degree of autonomy in its work, frustrations inevitably arise when initiatives are either blocked or fall prey to the bureaucratic machinery and priorities of Spain's many layers of government.

NEW PROJECTS FOR BENAHAVÍS

“We're still working on infrastructural projects, including the provision of purified recycled water to the village, this to avoid possible water supply shortages in the future, as well as three further projects that partly depend on other levels of government. They include the construction of a new school and college, the road network within the village

and accesses to it, as well as a new medical centre.”

The mayor sees a brilliant future ahead for Benahavís. “We're well located, offer security, tranquillity, a tidy environment, lots of nature, professional services, lots of life and events, and we continue to evolve and improve all the time. Benahavís lies at the heart of an area of fantastic natural beauty, including the Parque Natural Sierra de la Nieves, which means that two-thirds of our municipal territory is protected nature. We do maintain low levels of taxes to attract investors, but we are also focused on developing professional talent and tourism that is culturally and environmentally responsible.”

WHAT GIVES BENAHAVÍS SUCH CHARM?

First and foremost, its people, as they give it heart, energy, humour, and of course the local traditions and culture. In other words, they represent the unique character of this village and region. Of course, there is the prettiness of the village, its fantastic green setting, and a wide range of sports, cultural, leisure, and gastronomic options. Benahavís is small and big at the same time, and it punches well above its weight when it comes to offering charm, beauty, good energy, rich culture, and above all a very welcoming tradition and laid-back feel-good environment. **e**



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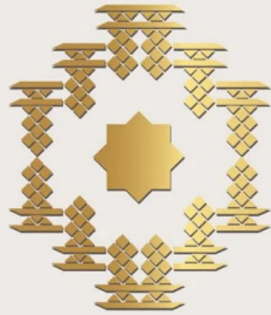
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A COFFEE MOMENT

FOR 86% OF SPANIARDS, ENJOYING GOOD
COFFEE AT WORK IS ESSENTIAL AND IT
IMPROVES THEIR WELLBEING

WORDS & PHOTOGRAPHY **NESPRESSO PROFESSIONAL**

A study conducted by Nespresso Professional reveals that nearly nine out of ten Spaniards consider the consumption of coffee during the workday very important and that it enhances their productivity. Moreover, the study shows that for more than 80% of the respondents, the coffee break promotes camaraderie.

Recently, Nespresso Professional carried out a study in collaboration with Analysis and Research, interviewing over 1,000 people nationwide to examine how workers consume coffee during their workday and how it affects their wellbeing.

The results of the study reveal that 86.9% of those surveyed consider the consumption of coffee during the workday very important. In fact, nearly nine out of ten workers state that coffee improves their productivity, and 58.1% add that the availability of coffee in the office is a key attraction to encourage more in-person attendance. ›



The 'coffee moment' is synonymous with wellbeing and socialising, and therefore is seen as a necessity by 86.7% of participants. In this regard, the main reason for consuming coffee at work is to take a break (51.7%), followed by the need to stay more awake (45.7%).

To a lesser extent, respondents report consuming coffee to increase concentration (29.8%) or to relax (29.4%).

On the other hand, it stands out how employees highly value the availability of quality coffee in the workplace, as for 82% of the respondents, it is a testament to the company's care and commitment towards them.

Additionally, the concern for sustainability is noteworthy, as more than 80% confirm the importance of their companies promoting sustainable practices in relation to coffee, mainly recycling cups, stirrers, and capsules, as well as using recycling bins.

HOW WE ENJOY COFFEE IN OUR WORKPLACE

According to this research, seven out of ten workers prefer their coffee with milk, in contrast to 36.7% of those surveyed who prefer it black or as espresso. When it comes to accompaniments, 49% of respondents claim to consume coffee without any other

food. Among those who do accompany it, the most popular are biscuits, pastries, toast, and sandwiches or bocadillos.

The study also reveals that 73.2% of respondents take between five and 15 minutes to enjoy their coffee. Smaller companies with fewer than ten employees are where the shortest breaks occur (less than five minutes), and the larger the number of employees, the longer the coffee break tends to be. As for the preferred time to have a coffee, it is mid-morning (47.2%), followed by the first hour of the morning. Notably, in two out of three cases (68.1%), employees take their coffee break in the company of their colleagues.

COFFEE AS A SOCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL CATALYST

And speaking of company, the study highlights the importance of sharing the coffee moment with other workers, turning coffee into a social bonding experience. In this sense, eight out of ten respondents consider that the consumption of coffee at work serves as a meeting point with other employees and promotes camaraderie. In this line, 77.8% also state that it creates a positive climate for interacting with people with whom they usually do not have contact. Thus, seven out of ten



FOR 86% OF SPANIARDS, ENJOYING GOOD COFFEE AT THE OFFICE IS ESSENTIAL AND IT IMPROVES THEIR WELLBEING

87%

State that consuming coffee during the workday is very important



82%

Believe it is proof of the company's care and commitment towards them

9/10

Claim that coffee improves their productivity



+80%

Emphasise the importance of promoting sustainable practices



The recycling of cups, stirrers, and capsules is as essential as the use of recycling bins



workers take this opportunity to talk to their superiors. Even if enjoyed alone, coffee breaks still have a positive effect on the individual, as 78.7% affirm that the time spent enjoying a coffee at the workplace favours the generation of thoughts, reflections, and solutions to apply in their work environment.

NESPRESSO PROFESSIONAL

Nespresso Professional is the professional division of Nespresso dedicated to offering comprehensive coffee solutions for all types of businesses. It boasts a wide range of exclusive coffee machines for offices, hotels, restaurants, and cafeterias, and a broad variety of coffee flavours that continues to grow with Forte Extra, a new variety with extra caffeine for those needing a boost in their daily routine outside the home. This new coffee highlights the brand's commitment to providing a personalised experience adapted to different tastes and occasions, always striving for innovation to continue surprising its customers and the end consumer.

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COMPILED BY **MARISA CUTILLAS**

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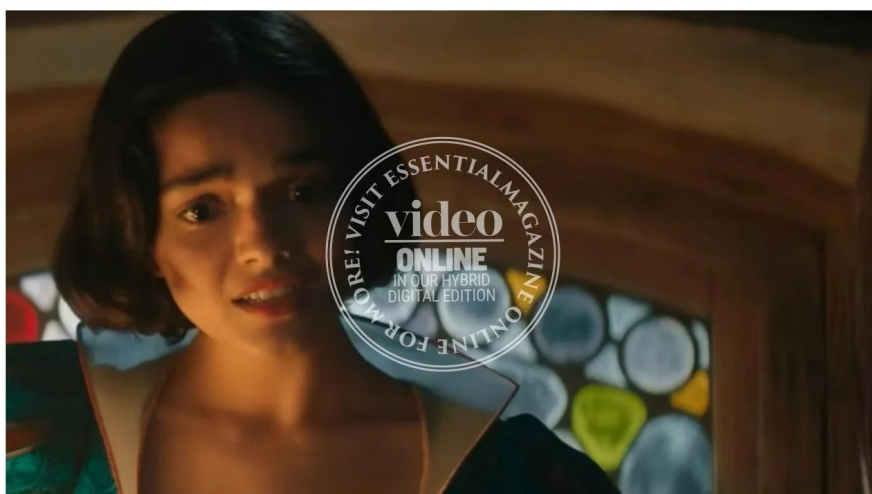
SNOW WHITE

» Director: Marc Webb (*500 Days of Summer*)

» Genre: Fantasy

» Cast: Rachel Zegler, Gal Gadot, Andrew Burnap

A modern rendition of the classic tale of *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves*. Rachel Zegler plays Snow White, the daughter of a kind king who sadly falls for the wrong woman. As the wicked queen battles to win the title of 'fairest in the land', Snow White relies on her friends and her resilience to seek justice and bring peace and happiness to the kingdom.





A COMPLETE UNKNOWN

A COMPLETE UNKNOWN

» **Director:** James Mangold
(*Girl, Interrupted*)

» **Genre:** Biography

» **Cast:** Timothée Chalamet, Edward
Norton, Elle Fanning

A Complete Unknown details the early career of Bob Dylan, commencing with his arrival in New York at the age of 19 to meet his ailing idol, Woody Guthrie. Dylan soon forges relationships with numerous musical icons, quickly making a name for himself until he delivers a groundbreaking performance at the 1965 Newport Folk Festival. The film also details his relationship with singer Joan Baez and his first love, Sylvie.



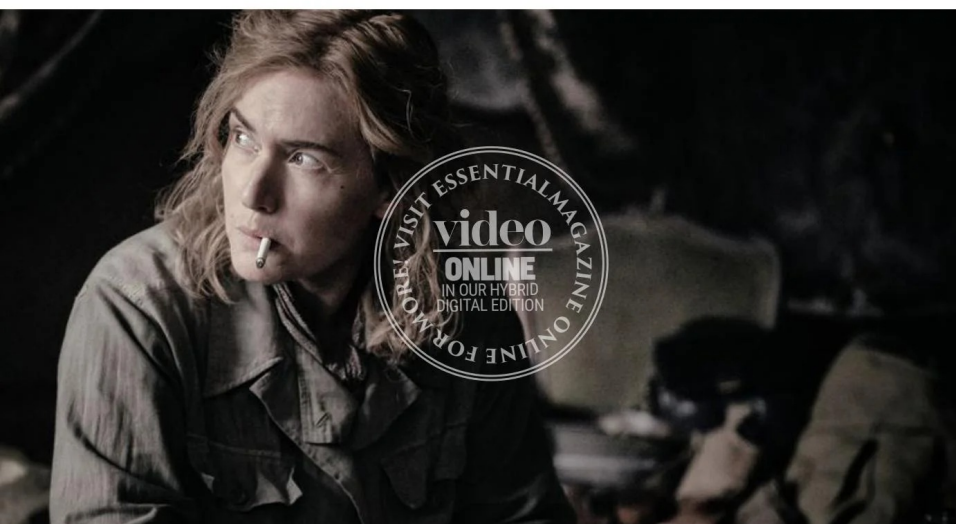
***LEE***

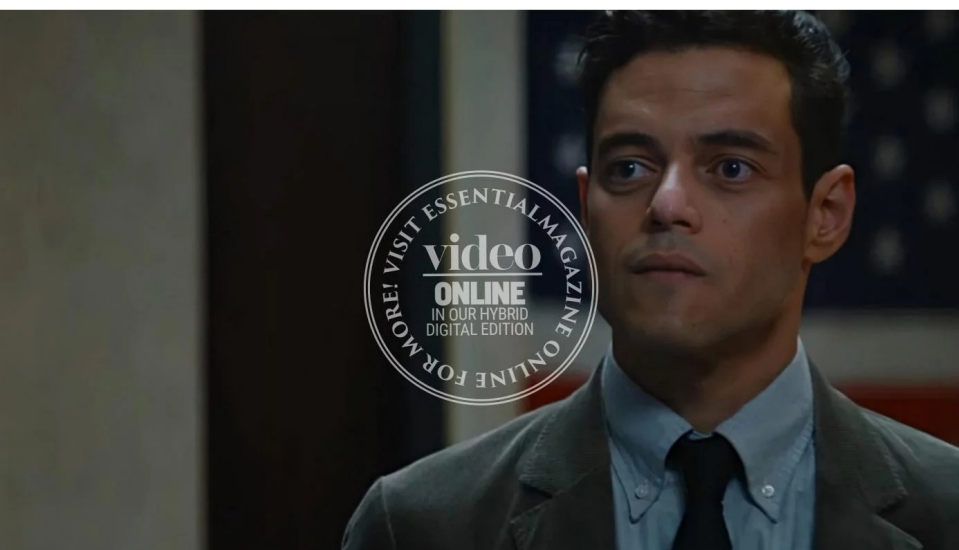
» **Director:** Ellen Kuras
(*Extrapolations*)

» **Genre:** Biography

» **Cast:** Kate Winslet, Andy Samberg, Alexander Skarsgård

Kate Winslet stars in this biographical war drama that chronicles Lee Miller's extraordinary life as a war photographer during World War II. Lee begins as a former New York City fashion model and aspiring photographer living a Bohemian lifestyle in Europe. In 1937 she meets and falls in love with Roland Penrose and moves to London, where she works for *Vogue*. She becomes a war correspondent in late 1941, working alongside photojournalist David Scherman and documenting key moments of the conflict.





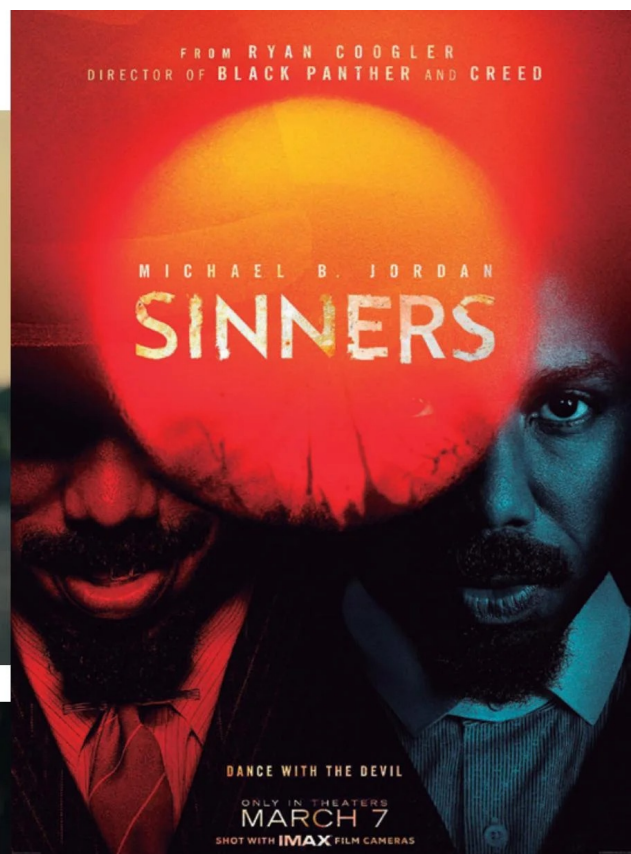
THE AMATEUR

» **Director:** James Hawes (*One Life*)

» **Genre:** Thriller

» **Cast:** Rami Malek, Julianne Nicholson, Rachel Brosnahan

Rami Malek stars as Charlie Heller, a brilliant but introverted CIA cryptographer whose life is turned upside down when his wife is killed in a terrorist attack in London. Charlie seeks revenge against his wife's murderers, forcing the agency to train him as a field operative. Using his intelligence as a weapon, he takes a dangerous journey across the globe to track the villains down.



SINNERS

» **Director:** Ryan Coogler (*Creed*)

» **Genre:** Horror

» **Cast:** Hailee Steinfeld, Jack O'Connell, Michael B. Jordan

Twin brothers Elijah and Elias Smoke (both played by Michael B. Jordan) return to their hometown seeking a fresh start and freedom from their troubled past. However, upon their arrival, they discover that an evil force has been eagerly awaiting their return. The brothers become entangled in a conflict with supernatural creatures who have been summoned by the power of blues music. **e**

COMPILED BY MARISA CUTILLAS

HOT NEW SERIES



THE STUDIO

(APPLE TV+)

» **Creator:** Seth Rogen (*the 40-Year-Old Virgin*), Evan Goldberg (*Sausage Party*)

» **Genre:** Comedy

» **Cast:** Seth Rogen, Catherine O'Hara, Kathryn Hahn

Seth Rogen plays Matt Remick, a relatively young executive who is hired as the head of a Hollywood studio. The series highlights Matt's challenges as he tries to save a floundering company while putting up with a bunch of eccentric individuals. It features an impressive array of appearances by eminent actors and directors, including Bryan Cranston, Ron Howard, Martin Scorsese, Zac Efron, Zoë Kravitz, and Charlize Theron.

DAREDEVIL (NETFLIX)

» **Creator:** Drew Goddard (*The Martian*)

» **Genre:** Superhero

» **Cast:** Charlie Cox, Vincent D'Onofrio, Deborah Ann Woll

Marvel Studios presents *Daredevil*, which is centred on Matt Murdock – an attorney who is blinded by a chemical spill in a freak accident. Instead of limiting his abilities, the spill gives him superhuman senses that allow him to see the world in a unique way. He uses these powers to shine as a lawyer by day and work as a masked vigilante by night. He relentlessly stalks the streets of Hell's Kitchen as Daredevil, a hero who knows no fear.



ADOLESCENCE (NETFLIX)

» **Creator:** Stephen Graham (*Boiling Point*) and Jack Thorne (*The Swimmers*)

» **Genre:** Drama

» **Cast:** Owen Cooper, Stephen Graham, Ashley Walters

Adolescence is a four-part limited series in which each episode is filmed in one continuous shot. It tells the story of how a family's world is turned upside down when 13-year-old Jamie Miller (Owen Cooper) is arrested for the murder of a teenage girl who goes to his school. Series creator Stephen Graham plays the boy's father, *Top Boy*'s Ashley Walters is the Detective Inspector on the case, and *The Crown*'s Erin Doherty plays a clinical psychologist aiming to discover the reasons behind the violent act.





DOPE THIEF (APPLE TV+)

» **Creator:** Peter Craig (*The Town*)

» **Genre:** Crime Drama

» **Cast:** Wagner Moura, Brian Tyree Henry, Marin Ireland

Dope Thief is an upcoming American crime drama television series based on the 2009 novel by Dennis Tafoya. It follows a couple of long-time best friends and delinquents who pose as DEA agents to rob an unknown house in the countryside, only to unwittingly unravel the biggest hidden narcotics corridor on the Eastern seaboard.

THE RESIDENCE (NETFLIX)

» **Creator:** Paul William Davies
(*For the People*)

» **Genre:** Comedy

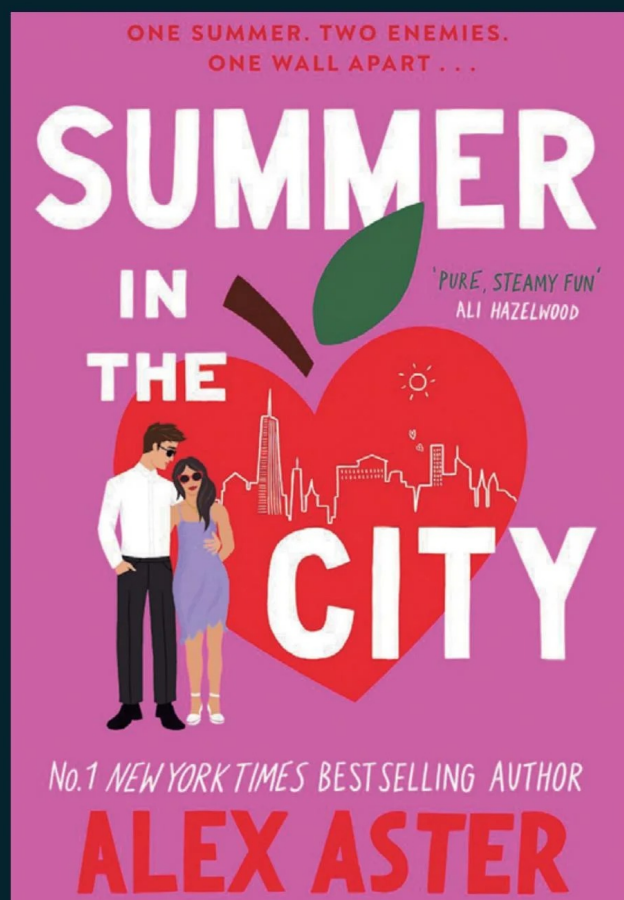
» **Cast:** Uzo Aduba, Giancarlo Esposito, Edwina Findley

There is a dead body in the White House and there are 157 suspects, all of whom are staff and guests at a state dinner. A brilliant, eccentric detective must solve the murder mystery by navigating a labyrinth of secrets, power plays, and cover-ups. Each episode introduces the audience to characters with a rich, intriguing history. The show takes us deep into the heart of the iconic building, from the lively kitchen to the President's luxurious living quarters, and the back stair passages where the action begins. **e**

READING

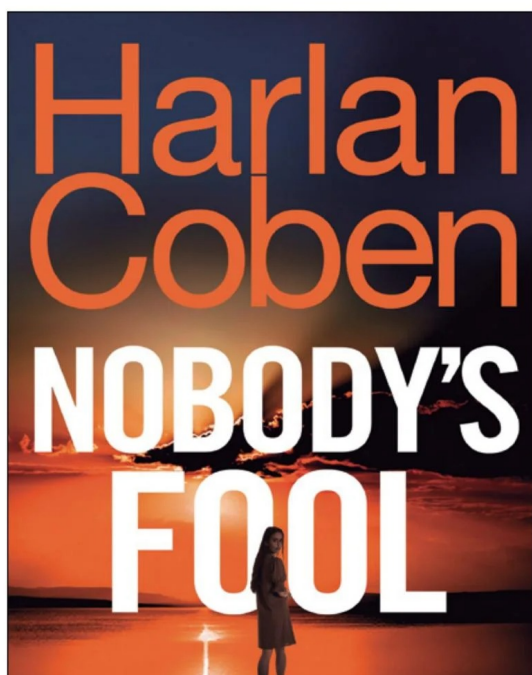
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SUMMER IN THE CITY BY ALEX ASTER

Elle swore she'd never return to New York, but with a major screenplay deadline looming and zero inspiration, she has no choice. The city might spark her creativity, if only her new luxury apartment didn't come with the worst surprise: Parker Warren, billionaire tech CEO and the man she had a one-night stairwell encounter with two years ago. Now? They're full-fledged enemies. But when a heated argument turns into a night of unstoppable writing, Elle realises Parker might be the perfect, if infuriating, muse. He needs a fake relationship to save his company's acquisition. She needs to write a love story across iconic NYC locations. One summer. One deal. One very thin wall between them. It's all pretend... until it isn't. From New York Times bestselling author Alex Aster comes a sizzling, fast-paced rom-com about love, ambition, and the undeniable magic of New York City.



NOBODY'S FOOL
BY HARLAN COBEN

Disgraced former detective Sami Kierce has spent years trying to outrun his past. But the past isn't done with him yet. Málaga, 2000. A backpacking trip turns into a nightmare when Kierce wakes up covered in blood, a knife in his hand, and a dead woman, Anna, beside him. He has no memory of what happened. New York City, 2025. While teaching night classes, Kierce sees a face he never expected. Anna. Alive. The moment their eyes meet, she vanishes.

Determined to uncover the truth about that fateful night, Kierce embarks on a relentless hunt for the woman who holds all the answers.

But as he digs deeper, he realises some mysteries are meant to stay unsolved and some secrets are more dangerous than the truth. A pulse-pounding thriller of deception, redemption, and the ghosts that refuse to stay buried.

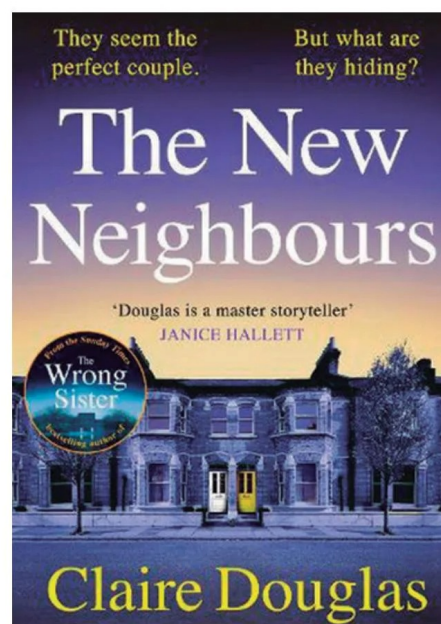
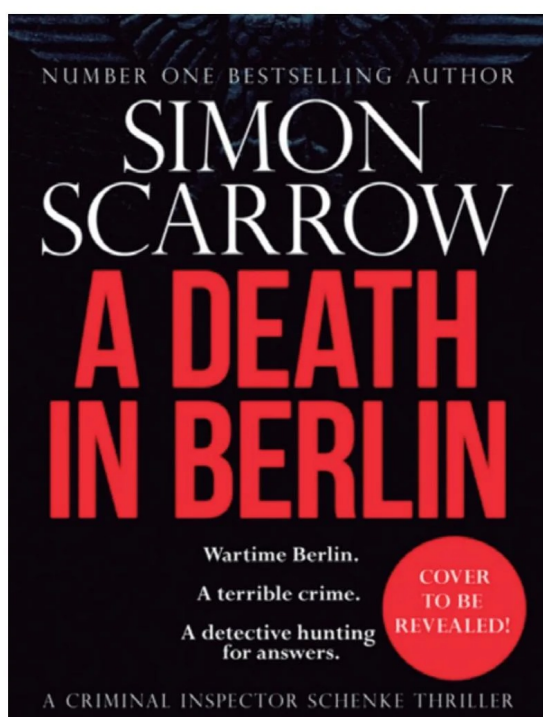


WHITE KING
BY JUAN GÓMEZ-JURADO

Antonia Scott, the brilliant but tormented mind behind the secretive Red Queen project, has never faced a challenge like this. Across Europe, her fellow agents are turning on each other, past cases are unravelling, and, at the centre of the chaos is one name, Mr. White. A cunning predator as intelligent as she is, Mr. White has dismantled Antonia's world. Her husband is dead. Her family is in hiding. And Jon Gutiérrez, the only person she trusts, has been kidnapped. His life now depends on Antonia solving three crimes. Puzzles designed by a madman. With every move, she risks playing directly into Mr. White's hands. But Antonia Scott has never been one to follow the rules. The gripping, pulse-pounding conclusion to the *Red Queen* saga, where the only way to win may be to break the game itself.

A DEATH IN BERLIN BY SIMON SCARROW

Berlin, May 1940. As Hitler prepares to invade Western Europe, Investigator Horst Schenke fights a different war, one against crime in a city where gangsters thrive under Nazi protection. But Schenke is walking a perilous line. With suspicions about his loyalty growing and a forbidden relationship that could seal his fate, danger lurks at every turn. When innocent lives are caught between ruthless crime rings and corrupt officials, Schenke refuses to look away. But powerful enemies know his secrets, and they will stop at nothing to control him. From shadowy cabarets to the lavish halls of Nazi elites, *A Death in Berlin* is a chilling tale of courage, corruption, and survival in a city on the brink of war. A stunning new thriller from the acclaimed author of *Blackout* and *Dead of Night*.



THE NEW NEIGHBOURS BY CLAIRE DOUGLAS

What if you heard something you weren't supposed to? When Lena helps her teenage daughter record sounds for a school project, she never expects her microphone to capture a chilling conversation between their neighbours, the Morgans. She's certain they are planning a crime. Everyone tells her she must have misheard. The Morgans are well-respected, an ordinary couple in their sixties with no history of trouble. But Lena can't shake the feeling that something is terribly wrong. What if she's right? What if she's the only one who can stop something awful from happening? As she digs deeper, her obsession grows. But stopping the crime may mean confronting the secrets of her own past, secrets she has tried to forget. A gripping psychological thriller that will have you questioning what you hear, what you see, and what you think you know. 📖

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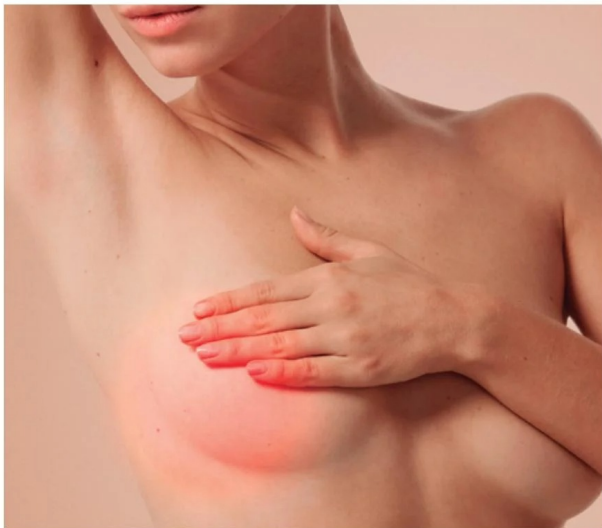
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Line up some quality ‘me’ time with luxurious pampering at the new Ashiana Spa in Boho Club on Marbella’s Golden Mile. Check out radiance looks from Rabanne. Learn about the new ThermoCheck Breast Scanner in Marbella, and find out about the importance of caring for your pet’s teeth.

lifestyle

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THE ART OF RELAXATION

Step into a soothing world of the senses

ASHIANA WELLNESS BY BOHO CLUB

WORDS MICHEL CRUZ PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF BOHO CLUB



The Boho Club has already established itself as one of the ultimate references for style, comfort, and modern refinement in Marbella. A boutique spa experience has just been added to this iconic boho chic venue's restaurant and getaway hotel. It's called Ashiana.

There is an art to all noble things in life, so naturally this applies to relaxation

as well. What's more, it's an art that's both increasingly lost and ever more important in this fast-paced world with its incessant flow of communication and information. In this modern environment, the need to get away and have some quality 'me' time just continues to gain in value, especially when it also means being 'offline' for a little while and disconnecting from the world. After a little while, this is where a sense of peace sets in, and you

begin to relax and unwind. The art, then, lies not so much in what you do but especially how you do it, and the benefits you take away from the experience.

Quite apart from the fact that it is pleasant, spending time in a spa or wellness environment, undergoing pampering treatments should have the effect of a mini holiday from which you emerge refreshed, revitalised, relaxed, and refocused. In other words, it is not just an indulgence but an ever more important way to reset yourself, guarantee physical and mental/emotional well-being, and ultimately maintain high efficiency levels. ›



The Ashiana retreat at the Boho Club

WELLNESS, THE BOHO CLUB WAY

The Boho Club has a very special philosophy and approach to luxury hospitality that can be described as 'boho chic' – the very concept that inspired the name of Marbella's latest icon. Here, luxury is understated, confident and relaxed,

not flashy – built on quality and refinement.

It's a very modern, quality of life interpretation of luxury, and from its privileged setting on the Golden Mile, The Boho Club offers a haven of peace and serenity that is like an oasis in the midst of Marbella. ›



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It is in this setting where the Boho Club's Holistic Wellness Centre and Retreat, Ashiana, forms an oasis within an oasis, exuding an almost Asian sense of serenity as you enter the complex surrounded by greenery. This is perhaps less surprising than you might think, as everything here has been designed with exactly that in mind: to create a blissfully peaceful setting full of good energy where you can let go of all the external stresses and allow yourself to just be. If ever there was a definition of the purpose of a spa, this is it, and The Boho Club has created a wellness centre that is true to its philosophy in effortless refinement, style, and quality.

The noise of everyday life fades into the distance when you enter this sanctuary, which looks and feels like a spa, but certainly not like the ones you're used to. Ashiana is somehow deliciously private, understated and intimate, very much in keeping with the Boho ethic, and its designers have succeeded in creating the kind of environment where the wellness effect begins to work even before the yoga or fitness class, massage, holistic therapy, Reiki or reflexology have started. ›





In the wet room you feel like
you're under the sea



The inspired design of the wet room

A BLEND OF ANCIENT KNOWLEDGE AND MODERN KNOW-HOW

Mankind has been searching for and developing ways of healing and reviving the mind, body, and soul for thousands of years. It is a tradition that is most strongly developed in Asia, where both spiritual and practical forms of regenerating human beings reached a high point of knowledge. These ancient wisdoms are still practised today in spas and retreats around the world, but

today we also have modern technologies and methods born out of an expanded understanding of how mind, body, and environment interact to either wear us down and weaken or build us up and make us strong. Ashiana applies a blend of both, designed to adapt classic techniques to today's realities.

Expect not only sauna, steam bath and herbal showers, but also yoga, workouts that blend mind and body, and treatments such as breath

work or the cacao ceremony, which help the brain calm down and switch off, peace and stillness to enter, and allow your intuition to block out all the noise and give you insights that were there in the back of your mind all the time – and usually prove to be more than helpful. There are many ways to achieve this – Steve Jobs used to leave his office and stroll through gardens, but few are as pleasant or effective as Reiki or restorative healing beds. >



AMBIENCE

HOME DESIGN

AMBIENCEHOMEDESIGN.COM

By ANDREA BÖCK

In the latter, state-of-the-art wellness beds merge advanced technology with therapeutic practices to provide an immersive experience that you won't have had before. The MLX Amphibia Welnamis Bed applies sound, vibration, and water therapy to bring you to a state of deep relaxation in which mind and body are harmonised. It is in this state that we begin to overcome feelings such as stress, anxiety, and depression. The RLX Satori Experience Bed is all about a sensory experience using modern biofeedback techniques to roll back tiredness, negativity, and other traumas to restore mental and emotional balance.

Ashiana also offers such experiences as Chakra Harmony, and Meditation and Mindfulness rituals, which have a transformative and re-energising effect as you find inner peace and emerge back into the world full of calm confidence, positive energy, and renewal. The wellness retreat offers tailored services designed for everything from a revitalising treatment that rekindles the senses and power points of body and mind to a comprehensive journey towards maintained inner peace, higher vibration, and true well-being.



Ashiana is all about connecting with the senses



Advanced yoga instruction



The unique look and feel of Ashiana

AN INSPIRED SETTING

The same painstaking detail and loving care that has gone into creating this programme designed to help visitors achieve profound relaxation and inner harmony is also evident in the décor of this joyous wellness retreat. Rather than one large open spa, Ashiana is a collection of intimate spaces built around the elements, including rock, water, and warmth. There is no one style or look – each and every room is a sensory discovery in its own right, its design inspired by the role it was created for – yet the Boho touch is visible throughout. >

Cosy spaces throughout



Immerse yourself in a sensory experience

Expect richly impactful hues and tones that caress the senses; textures, materials, visual designs and surfaces, soft and caressing to the touch – all within cosy rooms that seem to hold you in their warm embrace. Added to this is an evocative play of light, relaxing sounds, and invigorating fragrances that fill the air. >



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Boho chic design



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DISCOVERED BY **MADDIE QUINN** PHOTOGRAPHY **PEPE JEANS**



Pepe Jeans London is bringing timeless essentials back into the spotlight with its Very Pepe Denim Campaign. The collection showcases classic denim styles including straight-leg jeans, barrel silhouettes, and romantic shirts. Reflecting the brand's heritage, innovation, and attitude, each piece emphasises craftsmanship, quality, and design. From the cotton fabrics to the reversible outfits, the collection represents a deep commitment to precision tailoring that resonates with longstanding fans and new customers alike.













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Rabanne, originally known as Paco Rabanne, is arguably most famous for its fashion and perfume lines. In 2023, the brand underwent a significant transformation and launched its first make-up line, Rabanne Beauty. The collection features a full range of products for the skin, eyes, and lips. It also has a variety of innovative, multipurpose products. The brand's packaging showcases high-gloss gold, silver metallic, and mirrored finishes, paying homage to Rabanne's signature metallic and futuristic designs.

CURATED BY **MARISA CUTILLAS**



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WORDS **MARISA CUTILLAS***A GAME-CHANGER IN BREAST HEALTH***THERMOCHECK
THERMOGRAPHY**

© Courtesy of Dr. Nyjon Eccles



Breast cancer is currently the most common cancer in women overall and it is the most frequently diagnosed cancer among women worldwide, according to the non-profit organisation, The Breast Cancer Research Foundation. One in seven women born after 1960 are expected to be at risk of developing breast cancer at some time in their lifetime. The good news is that early detection can and

does save lives. This month, we interview Dr. Nyjon Eccles, a leading Integrated Medicine physician in the UK and the developer of the ThermoCheck® System, created as an adjunct scanning procedure to help in early cancer detection but more importantly in breast health preservation. Dr. Eccles is a Member of the Royal College of Physicians (MRCP). He also holds a PhD in Pharmacology (London).

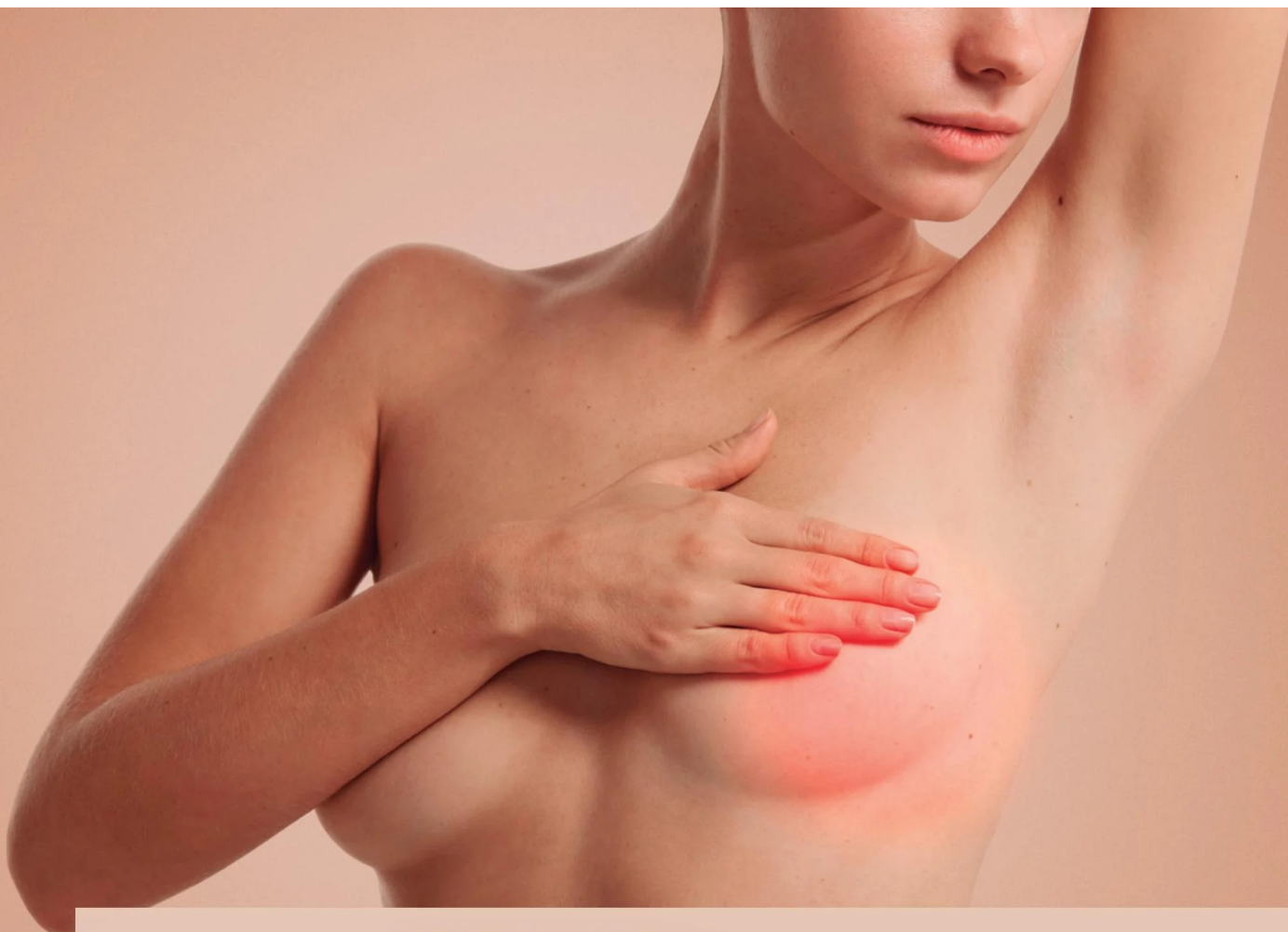
CURRENT RECOMMENDED SCREENINGS

Currently, digital mammography, with its high specificity and sensitivity (over 90 per cent) is the main imaging tool used for breast cancer diagnosis

and screening programmes worldwide. Dr. Eccles tells us, however, that “Mammography can only detect masses of an established size (about the size of a small grape). A normal mammogram does not mean you have healthy breasts, only that there is an absence of a structural lesion.” Moreover, there is exposure to radiation, which does involve some risk.

INTRODUCING THERMOCHECK INFRARED THERMOGRAPHY (IRT) FOR PREVENTIVE BREAST HEALTH

The ThermoCheck® system, which relies on breast thermography technology, should be considered a



complementary approach to mammography and other structural imaging tests, not as a replacement. This system uses digital infrared cameras to detect subtle temperature changes in breast tissue. It can identify physiological changes that may indicate early-stage breast cancer or pre-cancer development. Dr. Eccles states, "The advantages of thermography are that it's non-invasive, doesn't use radiation, is low-cost and portable, can be repeated frequently, and is not painful. It is especially useful for younger women and those with dense breasts." An abnormal thermogram

indicates a higher risk and possible need for further testing. Dr. Eccles adds, "Persistently abnormal thermograms over time predict higher future breast cancer risk, even with normal mammograms initially. This allows early risk assessment and prevention efforts."

THE THERMOCHECK® APPROACH

The ThermoCheck® system can be implemented in various settings, ranging from private clinics to wellness centres, spas, and hospitals. It comprises a thermal camera, laptop and camera stand, configured iPro keyboard,

and other easily accessible equipment. The check itself is totally painless and has zero radiation, ensuring client safety and comfort. Clients not only receive a precise and reliable risk assessment but also personalised nutritional and supplement programmes for natural healing. The focus is on prevention and proactive health management, and regular follow-ups are recommended for long-term breast health maintenance. "We take a holistic approach," says Dr. Eccles, adding, "Our aim is to empower clients with the knowledge and tools they need for lifelong breast health."



PROPRIETARY PROCESS

The ThermoCheck® process is as follows: first, thermographic imaging takes place at an approved centre. The scanning process involves a software-based analysis and comprehensive reporting, if indicated, blood testing is recommended and bespoke nutraceuticals to promote better breast health. Follow-ups are also scheduled and general lifestyle recommendations are provided to clients.

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Dr. Eccles states, "I have found that a high percentage of patients who have an abnormal breast Thermogram have at least two out of the four commonest nutrient deficiencies as measured by our Breast Nutri-Check home test kit. This led me to develop nutraceutical supplements to correct these deficiencies. After almost six years of testing, I can report that almost all patients with abnormal

Thermograms (i.e. with two to three abnormal thermal factors on the scans), attain normal Thermograms after six to nine months of being on these supplements."

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TIPS FOR BOOSTING YOUR CAT'S OR DOG'S ORAL HEALTH

WORDS **MARISA CUTILLAS**

Dental health is a vital part of your pet's overall health. As is the case with humans, problems like cavities or gum disease can reduce a pet's appetite or indicate the presence of an oral disease requiring treatment. Having your pet's teeth and gums checked by their veterinarian at least once a year is the first step towards great health. However, if you notice issues such as a refusal to eat, bad breath, broken or loose teeth, discolouration, swelling, or abnormal chewing or drooling, see your veterinarian sooner. Do the same if you notice sudden changes in behaviour, as the latter could be tied to oral or other health concerns that cause pain or discomfort.

WHAT DENTAL PROBLEMS DO CATS AND DOGS EXPERIENCE?

Dogs and cats suffer from very similar oral health issues as those faced by humans, including gum disease, tooth infections, and broken teeth and roots. They may also contend with cysts, tumours, a fractured jaw, or palate defects. In some cases, a misalignment of their bite may make it harder for them to chew food well. The most common oral condition for pets, however, is gum disease. By the time a pooch or kitty is around three years of age, it may develop some degree of periodontal disease, which can worsen if untreated. A yearly check-up will reveal if your cat or dog has plaque or other issues needing attention. Your veterinarian may recommend an X-ray and a cleaning, or procedures like adjustment, extraction, or filing. Anaesthesia is often used for professional cleaning since veterinarians usually go beneath the gum line to remove plaque buildup.

PREVENTING ORAL HEALTH ISSUES

As a pet owner, you also play a key role in preventing decay and gum problems for your four-pawed friend. As is the case with humans, regularly brushing your pet's teeth is the single most effective action you can take. Ask your veterinarian for recommended brushes and toothpaste products, and avoid using human products. Some ingredients in human toothpaste (such as fluoride, Xylitol, and baking soda) can either be harmful or counter-productive. For instance, fluoride can be toxic to pets if swallowed, and Xylitol (found in many modern-day chewing gums) is harmful. Baking soda, meanwhile, has a bitter taste, and it is important to make brushing pleasant. Cats, in particular, may be reluctant to let you brush their teeth, and the last thing you want is to test their patience with products they do not like. >



When it comes to brushes, you have a few choices. You can opt for a small toothbrush (some owners use toddler toothbrushes) or a finger brush – a small rubberised brush that slips over your finger. A third option is a small square of gauze with a little

toothpaste on it, which is used by gently rubbing the teeth and gum line to avoid plaque buildup.

TIPS FOR EVERYDAY BRUSHING

Aim to brush your pet's teeth at the same time every day (perhaps after their dinner) so they begin to understand that it is part of their routine. Dogs and cats may react negatively when you try to open their mouths to clean their teeth, so start by letting them taste a bit of the paste.

They may demonstrate a strong dislike for one product. In that case, you may need a bit of trial and error until you find a product it likes or tolerates well. Finally, slip your finger gently

under your pet's cheek and brush, targeting both cheeks and then the front teeth. The process will take you less than a minute, though of course, if your pet enjoys it, keep going a little longer!

Finally, prioritise quality nutrition. Purchase veterinarian-recommended food that is not rich in fillers and cereals. Reduce plaque build-up by feeding your pet veterinarian-recommended dog food and treats, as well as slices of apple, carrots, and celery. Avoid giving dogs bones, as these can wear their teeth down or even break them. Worse yet, if bones splinter or break and pieces are swallowed, they can cause life-threatening internal blockages. 🐾





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Find out why The Sky Marbella is one of the most outstanding developments in the Marbella area. Learn about blockchain applications in the real world. Keep abreast of local business news, and check out some of the recent top events on the Coast.

enterprise

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THE SKY MARBELLA

ABOVE EVERYTHING ELSE

*Where do you look when you've seen everything
and wish for a spot that offers it all: privacy,
style, comfort, space, unending views, and close
proximity to the things you love?*

WORDS MICHEL CRUZ PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF RIVESTIA

The villas are a
resort within a
private resort





A new standard for luxurious living

The Sky Marbella is a place you arrive at. Follow the gently winding road up from San Pedro Alcántara that leads to La Zagaleta and ultimately Ronda, and you reach the hills just above Marbella. The views back across the shoreline and the Mediterranean Sea are among the things this part of the world is famous for, taking in countryside, mountain ranges, golf courses, and the outlines of Gibraltar and North Africa. You think you cannot beat this scenery, but when you pass through the gates and enter the private hilltop domain you realise why it's called The Sky.

Covering the entire apex of a hill near La Quinta, The Sky is a very private, very select project of 16 villas and 50 luxurious apartments and penthouses. The setting forms a personal domain within an exclusive part of Marbella, close to all amenities yet bestowed with truly incomparable views across the entire coastal area. Life here really is an endless dialogue between home, sky, and sea, with a choice of different vistas accompanying every part of the living experience.

Such a singularly attractive setting deserves nothing but the best, and Swiss-Spanish developer Rivestia has created a project that merges timeless

Mediterranean design into the natural surroundings while optimising views and privacy. As befits properties of this stature, The Sky is marked by space, privacy, and a meticulous blend of architectural styling, build quality, and noble materials, driven by a desire to conjure up a new standard of living in Marbella luxury. From this privileged position, residents find themselves far from the madding crowd but just minutes from golf courses, the Marbella shoreline and its many amenities, as well as within easy reach of the highways that lead to Málaga and its international airport. ›

A NEW STANDARD SET

The blend of international know-how, creative inspiration, and such a stunning local setting can lead to great things, and at The Sky the alchemy begins as you pass through the manned security gate and enter your own private world. The sense of inspired design and detail is visible in everything from the alluring entrance to the parkland landscaping and communal spaces that reflect the standard of a five-star resort.

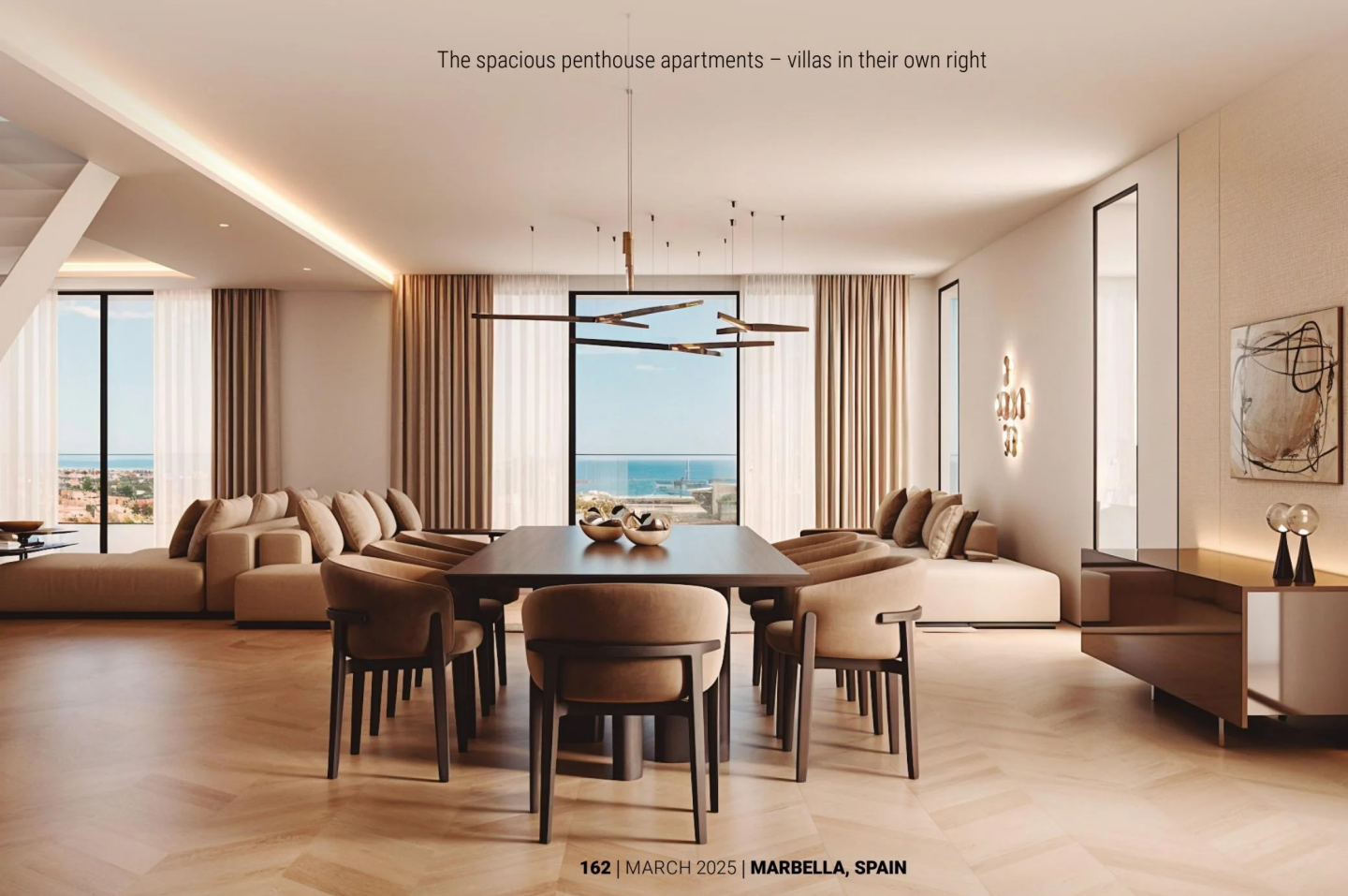
This is the setting for the luxurious apartments and

the 16 villas ensconced within their own green embrace. Timelessly refined architectural styling and noble marble, stone, and wood detailing mark five and six-bedroom villas of almost 900m² built, with living spaces flowing outward from the spacious open-plan lounge and kitchen to an outdoor dining area and sunken firepit terrace complete with kitchen facilities. The terrace embraces a pool and garden area framed by endless views of sea, sky, and rolling valleys.

Designed by Manuel Burgos, the sky villas offer a

succession of lifestyle spaces that appear to float upon the surrounding landscape, thus becoming one with the scenery and views. The natural materials, elegant landscaping, and considered positioning means they blend into the unspoiled setting, adding to the sense that is a very refined private retreat overlooking Marbella and its shoreline. These homes set the bar high, with beautifully detailed walk-in dressing rooms, opulent bathrooms clad in richly veined marble, private entertainment areas, and a personal spa in each villa.

The spacious penthouse apartments – villas in their own right







Luxury standards throughout

COMPLEMENTARY OPTIONS

Complementing the villas is a selection of apartments and penthouses by Teodoro Cabrilla that fit the description 'sky villa' equally well, for these ground floor, mid-floor, and top-floor homes exude sleek architectural design, timeless modernity, space, and sophistication. All come with expansive panoramic terraced areas and pools that harmonise with a five-star deluxe clubhouse with spa, indoor and outdoor pools, gymnasium, and staffed

reception and meeting lounge.

Ranging from 130m² to 473m², and from two to four bedrooms, these are sky villas that offer a choice of sizes and configurations. The ground floor apartments are set within their own spacious gardens, the mid-level apartments enjoy large panoramic terraces also with a private swimming pool, and the duplex penthouses encompass an entire solarium with lounging, dining, and relaxing areas – all with a large storage room and two parking spaces.

From the location, design, and finishing to the amenities enjoyed by residents, The Sky is a residential resort that sets itself apart, beginning with a panoramic location that has inspired architectural greatness, and continuing with five-star resort services that will have residents enjoying the very finest Marbella lifestyle possible.

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As well as having 2 houses, 4 garages, 4 out houses, there are 5 abandones constructions and a ruined hamlet (village) that have been registered by the Estepona Public Notary.

There are 3 water deposit tanks and a fully registered "WELL". The Rio Velerin flows for about 3km in the finca and permission has been granted to take out 40,000 cubic metres of water p/a. It's only 12 min from San Pedro.

It's has potential to build a school, medical center and or hotel.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT DMITRY +34 662 589 680

business news

COMPILED BY MARISA CUTILLAS



Casa Ángeles Launches 500 Soci@s Campaign

Casa Ángeles, the day centre headed by the Global Gift Foundation and its founder, María Bravo, has launched the 500 Soci@s Campaign (the 500 Members Campaign) to improve the quality of life of children and young people with special needs in the community. The goal is to enlist the help of 500 compassionate individuals willing to make a small monthly contribution to help sustain and expand Casa Ángeles' essential programmes. There are different levels of collaboration, starting from €10 per month. Members will receive priority access to events, discounts as partner businesses, and other exclusive benefits. "Every day, new families arrive seeking therapies for their children. With the support of our members, we ensure that Casa Ángeles remains a place of hope and opportunity for those who need it most," says María Bravo.

| FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, [CASAANGELES.ES/EN/DONATIONS/](https://casaangeles.es/en/donations/)

Los Monteros Deemed One of the Most Promising Investment Areas in Marbella

Los Monteros, a prime area in Marbella enjoying consistent appreciation, stands out as one of the best investment opportunities in the city for 2025. Pure Living Properties, a real estate agency specialising in premium locations, has identified a steadily growing demand and a notable shortage of properties, particularly in Los Monteros Playa. This scarcity has driven significant price increases in recent years. According to data shared by Idealista, the price per square metre in the area has seen a monthly growth of 1.3 per cent and an increase of +4.9 per cent over the last trimester, reaching a value of €4,479/m².

WWW.PURELIVINGPROPERTIES.COM



Renowned Artists to Perform at the 2025 Soles de Málaga Charity Festival

On April 26, one of Málaga's most significant charity festivals – Soles de Málaga – will be taking place at the Plaza de Toros de La Malagueta. Top artists Raimundo Amador, Teo Cardalda, and Tam Tam Go! will perform alongside many other musicians. The event, which is hosted by the El Pimpi Foundation, is held annually to support NGOs in need. This year's chosen organisations include Nena Paine (a project saving children's lives in Kenya), Asociación Dyar (providing social inclusion and employment opportunities for migrants in Málaga), and Includd (supporting individuals in emergencies and preventing poverty in Málaga).

FOR TICKETS AND FURTHER
INFORMATION, WWW.SOLESDMALAGA.ORG/FESTIVAL/2025



The 13th FONCEI Congress Takes Place in Málaga

Cervantes Escuela Internacional recently held the 13th edition of FONCEI (Foro Nacional de Cervantes Escuela Internacional). The event was launched in Málaga in 2011 to promote the Spanish language and its teaching. What initially started as a national event eventually became a leading international meeting point for professionals specialising in Spanish as a Foreign Language (ELE), attracting educators from all over the world. Carlos García Giménez, the regional delegate for Tourism, Culture, and Sports, emphasised that the congress has transformed Málaga into the epicentre of Spanish language teaching for foreigners. The Instituto Cervantes reports that over 600 million people are native Spanish speakers, while 22 million people are studying this language.

| WWW.CERVANTES.TO



Alexandra Studio Completes Interior Design Work for a High-End Home in Marbella

Renowned interior design firm Alexandra Studio recently completed an impressive project at Villa Alba, a three-storey home in Cortijo Blanco measuring 714m² and boasting five bedrooms, seven bathrooms, a cinema, and a home gym. It is a five-minute walk from the beach and is surrounded by natural landscapes, yet it is conveniently close to urban comforts. Villa Alba was sold in collaboration with Homerun Brokers shortly after being placed on the market. The architects responsible for the project were AMES Arquitectos. Alexandra Studio, which specialises in luxury villas, was founded by Dominique Alexandra, who initially worked in high-end fashion before making the switch to interior design.

| WWW.ALEXANDRA-STUDIO.COM



Mediterráneo Responsable Removes 5,300 Kilograms of Waste from the Sea

TM Grupo Inmobiliario, an Alicante-based company and leader in residential, hotel, and vacation tourism, has carried out a total of 45 initiatives in 2024 as part of its Mediterráneo Responsable project. Developed in collaboration with Cruz Roja Española and the Hippocampus Association, these actions have led to the removal of over 5,300 kilograms of waste from beaches and sea beds across various Mediterranean locations, thanks to the participation of more than 1,600 people. The project, which began in September 2023, aims to preserve the Mediterranean Sea through research, awareness-raising, and direct action.

| WWW.TMGRUPOINMOBILIARIO.COM



ESTHER RÁEZ
January, 28th
November, 25th



JOHN JULIUS REEL
March, 25th



DAVID ILLSLEY
May, 27th



MANUEL PARODI
September, 30th

The House of Flow Benahavis

esther ráez
COMUNICACIÓN & CREATIVIDAD BRUTAL
Organised by:

5 - 7 pm


AYUNTAMIENTO DE BENAHAVIS
In collaboration with:

2025 Talk Series – Stories About Benahavis Takes Place at the Benahavis Town Hall Auditorium

The renowned communication consultancy and agency Comunicación y Creatividad Brutal, founded by esteemed communicator Esther Ráez in collaboration with the Culture Department of the Benahavis Town Hall, recently launched 2025 Talk Series – Stories about Benahavis. The event, aimed at the English-speaking community of Benahavis, will feature five sessions by distinguished speakers, with special appearances by Esther Ráez for both the opening and closing events. The first session has already taken place. The second will occur on March 25, the third on May 27, and the fourth on September 30. All sessions will take place at 5:30 pm at the Benahavis Town Hall Auditorium (Salón de Actos).

| WWW.BENAHAVIS.ES



Building The Future Presents Charity Concert at the Teatro Ciudad de Marbella

Building the Future recently presented a charity piano concert featuring Jorge Lechado and Natalia Kucháeva. Lechado is a Malagueño pianist and professor at the Málaga Superior Conservatory of Music, while Kucháeva, who hails from Moscow, has won many prestigious prizes and is a professor at the Reina Sofía School of Music in Madrid. Every note played helped support children in need across the Costa del Sol and Uganda. Building the Future gathers professionals from the Real Estate sector of the Costa del Sol to support a good cause.

| WWW.BTHEFUTURE.ORG

HM Málaga Achieves Advanced Certification from the Andalusian Agency for Healthcare Quality

HM Málaga Hospital has received advanced certification from the Agencia de Calidad Sanitaria de Andalucía (the Andalusian Agency for Healthcare Quality). This certification acknowledges excellence in accessibility and continued care. In Málaga, only two hospitals, including HM Málaga, have achieved this designation, which guarantees the hospital's compliance with established requirements across various programmes designed to enhance healthcare and social services. Dr. José María Benavente, Director of HM Hospitales' Southern Territory, stated: "This recognition not only validates the excellence of our services but also reaffirms our professionals' commitment to delivering the highest standard of healthcare."

| WWW.HMMALAGA.COM



Museo Ralli Celebrates 25th Anniversary with Exhibition

To mark its 25th anniversary, the Museo Ralli in Marbella launched the project (i)realidades, which includes the exhibition *Memorias de la Tierra* by artist Leónidas Gambartes. It invites audiences to reflect on the main themes in the work of Gambartes, including memory, identity, territory, and ritualism. The project aims to foster learning through collaborative creative practices. It features interactive mediation devices within the gallery that visitors can use to engage with the exhibition in new ways. It also has an educational component centred on activating emotion-based thinking.

| WWW.MUSEORALLI.ES

Vista Lago Residences: The Journey to Completion Continues

The breathtaking Vista Lago Residences is coming to life, and a major milestone has just been reached – the urbanisation now boasts a beautifully paved road that sweeps through this exclusive estate, framing some of the most spectacular views in Marbella. As visitors drive through the estate, the seamless asphalt offers easy access and uninterrupted panoramic vistas of the surrounding mountains and sea at every turn. Vista Lago Residences is a collection of 18 luxurious, sustainable villas, each set on generous plots with spectacular outdoor spaces, state-of-the-art technology, and the finest finishes. Perfectly positioned between Marbella and Benahavís, this exclusive gated community offers homeowners an unparalleled living experience in one of the most sought-after locations on the Costa del Sol.

| WWW.VISTALAGO.ES



Daia Slow Beach Hotel Conil Undertakes Reforestation Efforts

Just days after winning the ReThink Award for being one of Spain's 10 best sustainability and hotel rehabilitation projects, the 5-star Daia Slow Beach Hotel Conil carried out a reforestation project spanning 20 hectares in the Sierras of Ojén and Marbella. After the land was cleared and prepared, some 2,100 specimens of the native *Ceratonia siliqua* carob tree were planted. This species was chosen to help restore the local flora that once thrived in the area. It boasts a robust root system that prevents soil erosion during heavy rainfall and contributes to increased biodiversity by serving as a refuge and habitat for native flora and fauna.

| WWW.DAIAHOTELS.COM



THE ONE Kicks Off in Style at BOHO Club

THE sixth edition of THE ONE paddle tennis and golf event was recently launched at Boho Club. The event is expected to attract over 3,500 participants, impacting the city of Marbella to the tune of €1.5 million. The padel tournaments began in February at Los Monteros Racket Club and will continue at Nueva Alcántara (March 14 to 16), Higuera Sport Club (March 28 to 30), Peña Vitoriana Tennis Club (June 20 to 22), and a venue to be designated (September 12 to 13). The final master competition will be held in Marbella (September 19 and 20). The first golf competition will take place at the Real Club Las Brisas (May 17), followed by Villa Padierna Golf Club (May 31), Larrea Club (June 28), Río Real Golf Club (July 12), and a venue to be designated in Marbella (September 20).

| WWW.SHOWTIMEEXPERIENCE.COM/THE-ONE



Nikki Beach Receives a Prestigious Hospitality Design Award

The emblematic Nikki Beach Ibiza has proven itself to be a stalwart in the world of design, having received an award at the fifth edition of the LIV Hospitality Design Awards. It has been recognised as one of the most innovative and high-quality in the hotel industry, standing out in the category of Interior Design Renovation – Gastronomic Space. The stunning club, designed by Remi Viale, Brand Architectural & Interior Design Manager of Nikki Beach Hospitality Group, has been praised for its capacity to integrate modern and simple elements. Natural materials, light tones, and rustic wooden structures abound, creating a beachy and relaxed aesthetic that pays homage to the authentic spirit of Ibiza.

| WWW.NIKKIBEACH.COM



Nacho Sandoval Named the New Ambassador for Sabor a Málaga

The promotional brand Sabor a Málaga has named Nacho Sandoval its new ambassador, recognising his outstanding work as a gastronomic communicator and his commitment to promoting Spanish cuisine. With an extensive career in communication in the agri-food and culinary sector, Sandoval hopes to enhance the visibility of Málaga's products and rich gastronomy nationally and internationally. "The appointment of Nacho Sandoval as ambassador of Sabor a Málaga represents another step forward in our efforts to promote Málaga's gastronomy. His experience, knowledge, and communication skills will be essential in further positioning our products and cuisine as benchmarks of quality," stated a representative from the Málaga Provincial Council.

| WWW.SABORAMALAGA.ES

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Vithas Launches Aula Salud Colegios to Promote Health Among Students

Vithas is expanding its Vithas Aula Salud initiative with the launch of Vithas Aula Salud Colegios. This educational programme, aimed at schools, high schools, and vocational training centres, seeks to teach young people about self-care, healthy lifestyles, and first aid, focusing on physical, psychological, and social well-being. The Vithas group wishes to improve the health and well-being of children and teenagers today so they can become healthier adults tomorrow. Starting now, schools in the 19 cities where Vithas operates can request a free talk, workshop, or interactive activity to educate their students on important health topics such as mental and emotional well-being, obesity, physical and sexual development, and first aid/CPR techniques.

| WWW.VITHAS.ES



Juntos Contra El Cancer Charity Event Enjoys Great Success

The Spanish Association Against Cancer (AECC) successfully held the second edition of the Juntos Contra El Cancer charity dinner at the five-star Higuera Hotel Málaga, Curio Collection by Hilton. The menu was crafted by renowned chef Diego Gallegos from the Michelin-starred Sollo restaurant, and model and actor Esther Arroyo played host. One of the night's most memorable moments was the charity auction, where a mural by artist José Rulos, paying tribute to Rafa Nadal's career and signed by the tennis legend, sold for €25.000. All funds raised during the gala will go towards cancer research and the free services AECC provides at its Fuengirola, Mijas, Benalmádena, and Torremolinos offices.

| WWW.HIGUERONRESORT.COM

The Rei Jaume I Awards Arrive in Málaga

The Rei Jaume I Awards, held to recognise excellence in various fields of knowledge and business activity, recently took place in Málaga. The event, founded in 1989 and presided over by King Felipe VI, has a jury comprising Nobel Prize winners, researchers, scientists, entrepreneurs, university rectors, and distinguished professionals in fields such as law, economics, journalism, and engineering. This year's event aimed to bring the awards closer to the Andalusian scientific, business, and academic communities and promote awareness of the awards and their impact on research, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

| WWW.FPRJ.ES





Fundraising Campaign Launched to Send Young MotoGP Hopeful to the JuniorGP Championships

Josh Wood from Fuengirola is a 16-year-old boy who hopes to be the World MotoGP Champion. However, motorbike racing is incredibly expensive and difficult to get into without support. Josh and his mother have started this journey alone, with no funding, sponsorship, or motor racing pedigree behind them and it's been a real struggle to get this far. Despite this, he's already showing promise, being accepted into the SPN Academy, racing in Resistance races around Spain, and being one of only 120 riders around the world to be invited to try out for the Red Bull Rookies. Donations can be made via Josh's Go Fund Me page (www.gofundme.com/f/support-josh-wood-to-race-in-juniorgp-fundraiser).

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Oculto Hair Marbella Offers New Manicure, Pedicure, and Endospheres Therapy Services

Leading Marbella hair salon Oculto Hair Marbella has expanded its offerings, demonstrating its strong commitment to technology and wellness. It is now home to a brand-new area dedicated to manicure and pedicure treatments where you can receive a wide range of services, including nail extensions, eyebrow design and tinting, a spa pedicure, and a Russian manicure. Oculto additionally offers endosphere body therapy, a painless and non-invasive technique that stimulates cell regeneration and improves skin imperfections. It is used to reduce cellulite, promote muscle toning, improve circulation, and relieve muscle pain.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, WWW.OCULTO.HAIR/MARBELLA

BLOCKCHAIN

BUILDING BLOCKS OF A NEW WORLD

If you've heard of Bitcoin and cryptocurrency, chances are you've also heard of blockchain. It's the technology that underlies that mystical world of virtual currency transfers that have reached such astronomical values, but what is it exactly, how does it work, and does it have applications outside of cryptocurrencies?

WORDS MICHEL CRUZ PHOTOGRAPHY ADOBESTOCK & UNSPLASH

The name blockchain, in case you were wondering, is derived from the fact that it is built on a chain of 'blocks' that contain information about each and every cryptocurrency transaction made. In other words, every time you buy or sell one of these currencies, a record is created whose details are represented (organo)graphically and contained within a block. That block is dated and added to with a new block whenever successive transactions occur. This way, a blockchain comes

into being that traces the whole succession of actions in what is called an open ledger.

Normally, this kind of information would be stored in central databases operated and controlled by financial institutions such as banks, but the 'independent' nature of the crypto system has gone in another direction, using what is called a 'distributed' [read: decentralised] ledger that spreads the information around the world to be stored in different locations, managed by a peer-to-peer (P2P) computer network. One of the beauties

of this process is that it has a high degree of resistance to tampering, as once recorded the information contained in each block cannot be changed without changing each and every block in the chain – and then still obtaining network consensus to validate them.

Such a system can only work well if it is effective, and it is the efficiency, speed, and security of the technology that has impressed friend and foe alike. Originally introduced by Satoshi Nakamoto with the launching of Bitcoin in 2008, it made crypto exchange possible and thus

forms the basis of a multi-trillion dollar virtual economy. A parallel financial system, if you will. However, it has impressed to such an extent that the official financial sector, among others, has taken more than a passing interest in blockchain technology.

THE BIRTH OF FINTECH

While other technologies of course also contribute to the rise of Fintech (Financial Technologies), none currently has a greater impact than blockchain, which is seen to have the potential to move the financial sector – and the management of financial transactions in particular – into the next generation in terms of speed, ease, security, and transparency. For many, the underlying principle of moving away from centrally controlled databases storing our financial data and towards a decentralised one, promotes greater personal freedom and collective democracy.

One downside of the system – and powerful computerised processes in general – is the amount of energy they require to operate. In other words, such is the demand for electrical power needed to run these processes that they are not exactly environmentally friendly. With a ledger size well in advance of 200 GB. It does, however, make

possible almost instantaneous transactions that are secure and cut out middleman merchants, thus also reducing costs that are usually passed on to consumers within the conventional financial system.

MAINSTREAM ADOPTION

The latter has gone from deriding cryptocurrency to eyeing it seriously, thinking of emulating it, and also wishing to incorporate the underlying blockchain technology within their own operations. This applies to many other fields, such as the creation of smart contracts (an application that has come out of the crypto world itself), supply chain management, property transactions, digital ID systems, healthcare data management, intellectual property safeguarding, gaming, energy trading, and even voting systems, not to mention the rapidly-evolving world of decentralised finance (DeFi).

This comes against the background of a drive towards

the legalisation and normalisation of cryptocurrencies and their growing incorporation into the (taxable) economy, all of which sounds great but raises fears of a back to 'business as usual' system wherein all that decentralised private transaction data is neatly corralled into a centrally controlled system. In other words, the very technology supposedly designed to offer more freedom and independence brought back to serve the opposite purpose. Aside from such philosophical/political/technical questions, however, it cannot be denied that blockchain has many current and future applications, and will open the door to a whole new generation of technological innovations. to serve the opposite purpose. Aside from such philosophical/political/technical questions, however, it cannot be denied that blockchain has many current and future applications, and will open the door to a whole new generation of technological innovations. ③







GRAND LAUNCH **THE SKY MARBELLA**

Members of the real estate community, the press, friends, and associates gathered for the Grand Launch of THE SKY MARBELLA, an exceptional high-end gated community consisting of 16 villas and 50 apartments with 24-hour security. The development has an unparalleled location, with exceptional views across the Coast over The Mediterranean

WWW.THESKYMARBELLA.COM



PHOTOGRAPHY **KEVIN HORN**



OPEN HOUSE STRAND PROPERTIES

Strand Properties, one of Europe's fastest growing real estate companies, with offices in Marbella, Fuengirola, Málaga, Palma de Mallorca, and Helsinki, recently hosted an Open House to present an impressive duplex penthouse at Royal Banus. Royal Banus is a unique residential complex in Nueva Andalucía close to the Casino Marbella.

WWW.STRAND.ES



PHOTOGRAPHY **KEVIN HORN**

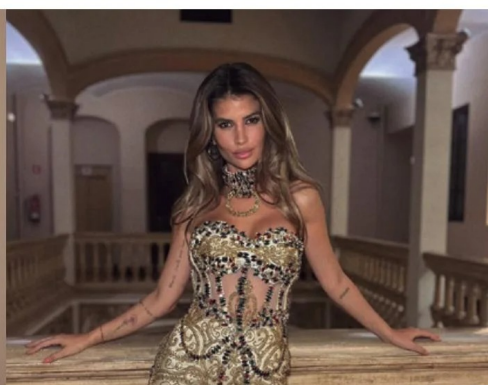


THE LUXURY PLATFORM

The prestigious entrepreneur Theresa Bernabé, together with Mercedes Domecq, designed and arranged a unique experience combining elegant gastronomy and the natural beauty of La Dehesa in Extremadura at the Hotel Olivenza Palacio. Top models and influencers savoured the culinary delights of renowned Two-Michelin Star chef Ramón Freixa, and enjoyed a diverse outdoor programme.



WWW.THELUXURY.TV



PHOTOGRAPHY **COURTESY OF THELUXURY.TV**



See the many innovative and sensorial International Dining Trends for 2025. Meet Vincent Crepel who has garnered two Michel Stars for Terre in the Castlemartyr Resort in County Cork. Learn about the potential benefits and pitfalls involved in investing in wine.

gourmet

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TOP INTERNATIONAL DINING TRENDS

FOR 2025

Burj Al Arab, Dubai



As the world of fine dining continues to evolve, 2025 promises an exciting array of culinary trends that redefine luxury, sustainability, and cultural fusion. With a discerning clientele demanding more than just exceptional food, top-tier restaurants are focusing on immersive experiences, ethical sourcing, and cutting-edge technology. From hyper-personalised menus to AI-enhanced gastronomy, these are the key trends shaping international dining this year.

Robotic waiter

1. HYPER-PERSONALISATION: THE RISE OF TAILOR-MADE DINING

Luxury dining in 2025 is no longer about simply choosing from a menu; it's about a curated gastronomic journey. Elite restaurants are investing in AI-driven analysis of guest preferences, dietary needs, and past dining experiences to create bespoke meals. This trend extends beyond food; personalised ambience, bespoke wine pairings, and even scent customisation ensure an unforgettable, one-of-a-kind dining experience.

At exclusive venues, guests may be welcomed with a cocktail crafted using their favourite botanicals, or presented with an appetiser inspired by their previous orders. Advances in data analytics allow restaurants to refine their approach to hospitality, ensuring no two visits are ever the same.

2. REGENERATIVE GASTRONOMY: A STEP BEYOND SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability has been a buzzword in fine dining for years, but 2025 sees the rise of regenerative gastronomy. High-end restaurants are not only sourcing responsibly but actively contributing to ecosystem





Sushi chariot at Yoshi, Monte Carlo

restoration. From regenerative agriculture to ocean-friendly seafood sourcing, top chefs are partnering with local farmers and fisheries to ensure that their dishes positively impact the environment.

This movement extends to urban dining, where rooftop farms and hydroponic gardens within restaurants supply fresh ingredients while reducing carbon footprints. Diners can expect to see 'zero-impact'

dishes featuring heirloom vegetables, ethically sourced proteins, and foraged ingredients that support biodiversity.

3. THE FUSION OF AI AND CULINARY CREATIVITY

Artificial intelligence is playing an increasingly significant role in fine dining, offering innovative ways to enhance both flavour and presentation. AI-assisted chefs are using predictive algorithms to balance flavours, creating unique combinations that push culinary boundaries. Additionally, machine learning helps chefs perfect recipes by analysing historical dining trends and customer feedback.

Luxury establishments are also integrating AI into service, with robotic sommeliers capable of making expert wine recommendations based on a diner's palate. Augmented reality (AR) menus, which provide an

interactive and immersive preview of dishes, are set to become standard in high-end venues.

4. THE EXCLUSIVE 'CLOSED-DOOR' DINING EXPERIENCE

For the well-heeled gourmand, exclusivity is everything. The concept of 'closed-door' dining – where access is granted by invitation or membership – has soared in popularity. These ultra-private dining experiences take place in hidden restaurants, luxury residences, or secret locations, offering a level of intimacy and prestige that traditional fine dining lacks.

Whether it's a Michelin-starred chef hosting a one-night-only event in a historic Spanish villa or a discreet omakase experience in a private club, these clandestine culinary affairs cater to those seeking extraordinary dining away from prying eyes. ›

5. THE REVIVAL OF TABLESIDE THEATRE

Interactive dining is making a grand comeback, with a new wave of tableside experiences redefining luxury. Diners are no longer passive participants but active spectators as chefs prepare and present dishes with dramatic flair. Whether it's the expert carving of a 60-day dry-aged wagyu tableside or the flambéing of a dessert in a dimly lit salon, the theatre of fine dining is as important as the meal itself.

Luxury restaurants are also embracing experiential dining through multi-sensory elements such as mood lighting, curated soundscapes, and olfactory enhancements that heighten the overall gastronomic journey.

6. LUXURY PLANT-BASED CUISINE: THE NEW HAUTE GASTRONOMIE

Plant-based dining has transcended its health-conscious roots to become a symbol of culinary sophistication. The world's top chefs are crafting intricate, plant-based menus that

rival the most decadent meat and seafood dishes. Techniques like fermentation, molecular gastronomy, and advanced texturisation have elevated plant-based ingredients to new heights.

Caviar made from seaweed, foie gras derived from ethically cultivated fungi, and 'meat' created using high-end mycelium techniques are just a few examples of how plant-based cuisine is now an essential part of luxury dining.

7. MULTI-SENSORY DINING: AN IMMERSIVE GASTRONOMIC EXPERIENCE

Luxury dining in 2025 is not just about taste – it's about engaging all the senses. Restaurants are curating dining experiences that combine sight, sound, smell, and touch to enhance the enjoyment of food. This can take the form of immersive projection mapping that transports guests to different landscapes as they dine or dishes that react to the diner's movements

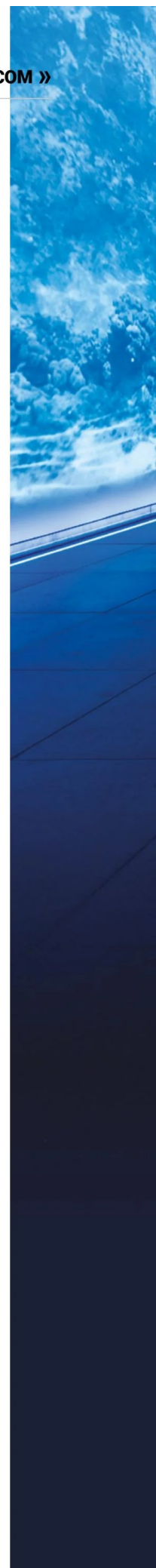
through smart table technology.

Some high-end venues are even experimenting with synaesthetic pairings, where specific sound frequencies are matched with certain flavours to intensify the overall experience.

8. HIGH-TECH SUSTAINABILITY: BLOCKCHAIN AND CARBON-NEUTRAL DINING

With the rise of conscious consumerism, luxury diners are seeking greater transparency in sourcing and sustainability. Blockchain technology is being adopted by top-tier restaurants to provide verifiable proof of ethical sourcing. Guests can scan a QR code on their menu to trace the origin of their Wagyu beef, the fishing practices behind their caviar, or the sustainability credentials of their truffle supplier.

Moreover, carbon-neutral dining is becoming a hallmark of luxury gastronomy. High-end restaurants are offsetting emissions by investing in reforestation





Sublimotion by Paco Roncero in Ibiza

projects, sustainable energy initiatives, and responsible waste management practices.

9. DESTINATION DINING: THE RISE OF CULINARY TOURISM

Fine dining is no longer confined to urban hubs – destination dining is becoming the ultimate indulgence for elite food lovers. Culinary travellers are jetting off to remote vineyards, undersea restaurants, and cliffside gourmet retreats where the journey is just as extraordinary as the meal itself.

Whether it's an Arctic tasting menu featuring ingredients sourced from the polar region or a private dining experience on a secluded Balearic island, 2025 is the year when dining becomes an adventure in itself.

10. LIQUID INNOVATION: THE EVOLUTION OF LUXURY BEVERAGES

The world of luxury drinks is undergoing a transformation, with mixologists and sommeliers embracing innovation. Low- and no-alcohol fine beverages are gaining prominence, with Michelin-starred establishments offering complex, alcohol-free pairings that rival their wine lists.

Additionally, the use of AI in mixology is creating bespoke cocktails tailored to a guest's mood and preferences. Ultra-aged spirits, molecular cocktails, and biodynamic wines sourced from emerging vineyards are all set to redefine luxury drinking in the coming year. ©



THE FRENCH VISIONARY BEHIND IRELAND'S TWO-MICHELIN- STARRED TERRE

Nestled within the idyllic Castlemartyr Resort in County Cork, Ireland, the restaurant, Terre represents the creative brilliance of Chef Vincent Crepel. In just over two years, this intimate dining destination has garnered two Michelin stars, redefining modern gastronomy and establishing itself as a global culinary landmark.

VINCENT CREPEL

Born in Luz-Saint-Sauveur in the French Pyrenees, Vincent's passion for food was ignited in his family's kitchen, where his Italian heritage and vibrant culinary traditions played a central role. His culinary journey has taken him across the world, blending classical French techniques with Southeast Asian

flavours, while honouring the essence of the lands he inhabits.

His vast experience reveals a love for challenge and a desire to learn from the very best. Although French cuisine is a key influence in his cuisine, his early experiences were mostly outside France. Vincent has honed his craft at restaurants the calibre of the three Michelin-starred Arzak in San Sebastián,

the Hotel de Ville Crissier in Switzerland, and André Chiang in Singapore, among many other renowned establishments. In 2014, he opened his own restaurant, Porte 12, in Paris. This turn of events was fortuitous, for it enabled him to marry French technique, Asian flavours, and Japanese minimalism to perfection. ›





French training, exploration of the Basque country and South East Asia, and use of local Irish ingredients, the menu at Terre highlights global inspirations. Vincent's travels shape not only his menu but also his values and philosophies. At Terre, the focus is on the product, as is evident in dishes such as Chawanmushi with stone crab, caviar and bone broth, A5 Wagyu 'Miyasaki Prefecture' with wagyu beef, barley, and koji, and Irish Trout with carrot sauce, yuzu, kosho, and timut oil. All dishes can be perfectly paired with an eclectic choice

of wines from the restaurant's wine list, which features biodynamic and organic selections from boutique, family-owned vineyards worldwide.

Terre also delights guests with a unique Taiwanese tea pairing menu, prepared in collaboration with a seasoned Taiwanese tea sommelier. Vincent says, "Most non-alcoholic options are based on juices or kombuchas, but I always find them more filling than alcohol, so I wanted to find an option that wouldn't spoil the tasting menu for the guests. »

Terre, which opened in September 2022, is set within a comprehensively restored 18th-century manor house. The restaurant's design elegantly combines historical charm with modern sophistication, offering an immersive dining experience that begins with Champagne and snacks at the chef's table in the open kitchen. Guests are then taken on an exclusive tour, where they glimpse into the heart of Terre's creative process, including its dry-ageing fridges and fermentation rooms.

With Chef Vincent's classical





Exquisite dining at La Veranda

Enjoy the elegance and old-warm charm of La Veranda, which is going 'back to its roots' by serving a new menu offering its most iconic dishes and guests' all-time favourites from 20 years ago. Savour mouth-watering flavors created by chef José Carlos Delgado. Steeped in nostalgia, complemented by exceptional service and a fairy-tale setting.

Open from 7.00 pm to 11.00 pm, Wednesday to Sunday. Live music Friday and Saturday.

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Brewing these teas is hard work; they need to be extracted until the late hours of the night and steeped in specific pots and barrels.” Terre obtains this tea from a small, family-run farm. A unique extraction method is used to bring out its deep, roasted, floral, and slightly creamy notes. This tea pairs elegantly with dishes featuring umami elements, as well as desserts incorporating nuts, caramel, or miso.

The dining experience at Terre unfolds across carefully curated spaces, including the preserving room, the salon, and the main dining room. The ambience evokes warmth and welcome, inspired by Vincent’s first visit to Ireland during winter. The pass in the kitchen is fully illuminated, drawing attention to the intricate culinary artistry, while



workstations glow with ambient light and the wood grill’s flame. Guests can make the experience even more magical by enjoying an overnight break, staying in one of the stunningly refurbished accommodations at Castlemartyr Resort.

Terre earned its first Michelin star in just six months, and its second in January 2024 – a testament to Chef Vincent’s dedication to precision, creativity, and innovation. Chef Vincent is also a vocal

advocate for sustainability. The restaurant adopts a zero-waste philosophy, reusing and repurposing ingredients in every step as the chef develops his greenhouse around the property. Bespoke ceramics, locally crafted furniture, and collaborations with Irish artisans underscore Terre’s commitment to celebrating the region’s natural beauty and craftsmanship.

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BOHO CLUB RECEIVES BEST HOTEL BREAKFAST AWARD

Exclusive Marbella resort Boho Club recently won the Best Hotel Breakfast Award at the renowned gastronomic congress Madrid Fusión 2025. Boho Club's breakfast stands out for its top-quality products, commitment to sustainability, and attention to detail. It includes Cava, natural fruit juices made with Pressumia juicers, waters flavoured with fresh fruits and herbs, gourmet coffees, a selection of Iberian products and cheeses, and fresh bread. It also has hot dishes such as eggs, bacon, and mushrooms, served in chafing dishes to keep them warm. You will also find healthy options, dishes for diners with special nutritional needs, homemade pastries and desserts, savoury bites, and classics like tortilla de patata.

WWW.BOHOCUB.COM



EL LAGO REOPENS AFTER EXTENSIVE RENOVATION

After two months of renovation, El Lago, a benchmark of haute cuisine on the Cast, has reopened its doors. Its interiors now boast a warm, elegant setting featuring natural wood, neutral tones, and delicate linen tablecloths. Chef Milos Zdravkovic has crafted a new menu and tasting menu that pays homage to local and seasonal ingredients, respecting Andalusian culinary roots and gracing them with a contemporary touch. Among the many standout dishes on the menu are Gillardeau oysters and blinis with Osetra caviar, matured beef tataki with bone marrow sauce, and confit monkfish with celeriac purée. Meanwhile, the carefully crafted tasting menu contains treats like the mini baguette with matured beef and piquillo pepper emulsion, squid tagliatelle with tuna ragù, and oxtail-filled tortellini.

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LA FONDA *RETURNS*

More than four decades after achieving the Coast's first Michelin Star, La Fonda has returned to the culinary scene. The exclusive boutique hotel, distinguished with the Relais & Châteaux seal of approval, is headed by chef Jorge González Carmona, whose gastronomic proposal is based on zero-kilometre, seasonal products. With a distinguished career at establishments such as the Hotel Ritz in Madrid and Robuchon, González Carmona has arrived in Marbella with a clear mission: to recover La Fonda's prestige on the international culinary scene. The hotel has three culinary spaces: La Fonda Restaurant, Los Patios, and La Ermita. Opposite the establishment, in the picturesque Plaza del Santo Cristo, is La Bodega de La Fonda – a cosy space that honours traditional cuisine with tapas, wine, and homemade dishes

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THE GLENTURRET LALIQUE RESTAURANT *RETAINS TWO MICHELIN STARS IN 2025*

Scottish restaurant The Glenturret Lalique Restaurant has retained its two Michelin Stars in the 2025 Michelin Guide Great Britain & Ireland ceremony held at Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum in Glasgow. This recognition highlights the dedication, passion, and creativity of Scottish Executive Chef Mark Donald and his talented team. Donald, whom we recently featured in **essential** magazine, brings a bold, visionary approach to his cuisine. His ability to blend Scotland's exceptional produce with global influences has been pivotal in shaping the restaurant's success. The restaurant opened in 2021, pioneering a new concept by combining fine dining with whisky heritage. It received its first Michelin Star just seven months after opening and was awarded a second star in 2024.

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IS WINE A GOOD INVESTMENT?

WORDS **ANDREW J LINN**

There are two types of wine investor: those who enjoy trying wines which they may not otherwise taste, and use investing as an excuse to extend their hobby, and those who consider the whole thing as a series of financial transactions. Non-specialist professional investors look on it no differently to one dealing in FTSE 100 stocks. In an ideal world both points of view can be combined in such a way that provides maximum enjoyment and a satisfactory profit.

The would-be wine investor might innocently believe that selecting the most expensive wines from a supermarket shelf and storing them for 20 years may result in a nice little profit. Unless it is clear that there has only been a specific number of bottles produced, nothing is more time-wasting. We need good eyesight, but if there is a limited production figure, it will be printed on one of the two labels.

A dedicated international investor may decide to specialise in, say, Chateau Latour, but

here again not all vintages will increase in value equally. This is where expert advice is needed, and if one is entering the dangerous area of en primeur wines, the phrase skating on thin ice comes to mind.

Estimates suggest that up to 20% of the world's wine may be fake, with fraudulent activities ranging from relabelling inferior wines to creating entirely counterfeit bottles. In its upper echelons it even has a name: The Kurniawan Effect. Rudy Kurniawan was a notorious

forgery who sold millions of dollars' worth of counterfeit 'fine' wines that he had 'manufactured' in the kitchen of his New York home, putting good but inexpensive wines in authentic bottles gathered from top restaurants. Kurniawan got ten years for his trouble. The case highlights the risks involved in wine investing, particularly with high-value bottles from Burgundy and Bordeaux. Investors today are more cautious, seeking source verification and blockchain proof.

There are even consultants in this field who will, for a fee, check out the contents of private and restaurant cellars. Above all, reputable merchants are the most trustworthy instruments, as both they and auction houses have sophisticated security measures. But counterfeiting risks remain, especially in secondary markets. Generally speaking, the higher the value of the wine, the more carefully does its background need to be checked out. But given a bottle whose glass can be authenticated as being a hundred years old, a ropey – about to crumble into dust – cork, and a label printed on paper that can be proved to be as old as any manuscript of the period, who is going to put up their hand and denounce it as a fraud?

The savvy forger does not of course aim for the top of the line, rather the second ranking where authentication may be considered unnecessary. The most important wine auction houses in London and New York have experts who can value a bottle of wine by simply looking at it, and their reputation depends on their being right: for instance, the Knight Frank Luxury Investment Index reported a 146% increase in fine wine prices over ten years. A healthy return on investment by any standards and playing safe with top French names reduces the risk, so what opportunities do Spanish wines offer? Interestingly. the risk of fakes



plummets on the arguable basis that no-one believes they are worth counterfeiting. A conviction that will be seen to be erroneous.

Spain's offering in this area can be an interesting hunting ground for investors, particularly concerning reputable producers like Vega Sicilia and Dominio de Pingus (both from the Ribera del Duero region). A recent case last month uncovered a sophisticated organisation with participants in several countries selling top Spanish brands, only rumbled because a knowledgeable consumer suspected a bottle he had ordered in a restaurant was not the real thing and called in the Guardia Civil. If it had been a matter of fake works of art or other high value items, the punishment would have been more severe, but in this case a suspended sentence was the worst that the judge handed down.

So, the rules for safe wine investing are: Buy from a reputable supplier. If feasible leave the wines

in bond and only take them out when a sale is signed and sealed. Never buy on a whim or expect little-known labels to offer a worthwhile return, and if it all goes pear-shaped make sure you can have some sensory compensation in possessing wines that can be enjoyed while not worrying too much about the financial damage. ☹



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